



People First Language

People First Language by Katie Snow
www.disabilityisnatural.com



Words with dignity! Say ...

people with disabilities

people with mental retardation

he has a cognitive impairment

my son has autism

she has Down Syndrome

he has a learning disability

I have paraplegia

she has a physical disability

she has a mobility impairment

he's of short stature; he's short

she has an emotional disability

he uses a wheelchair / mobility chair

typical kids, kids without disabilities

he receives special ed services

accessible parking

accessible bathrooms

she has a need for ...

Avoid these words! Instead of ...

the handicapped or the disabled

the mentally retarded

he's retarded

my son is autistic

she's a Down's kid

he's learning disabled

I'm paraplegic

she's crippled

she's lame

he's a dwarf or midget

she's emotionally disturbed

he's wheelchair bound / confined to a wheelchair

normal kids, healthy kids

he's in special ed

handicapped parking

handicapped bathrooms

she has a problem with ...