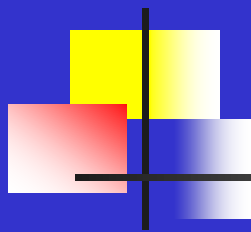


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# People First Language

# People First Language Speaking with Awareness

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## USE

People with disabilities

People who use  
wheelchairs or  
wheelchair user

People who have autism

People who are deaf or  
hard of hearing

## DON'T USE

The handicapped

Confined to a wheelchair  
or wheelchair bound

The autistic ...

Deaf and dumb or mute



# People First Language

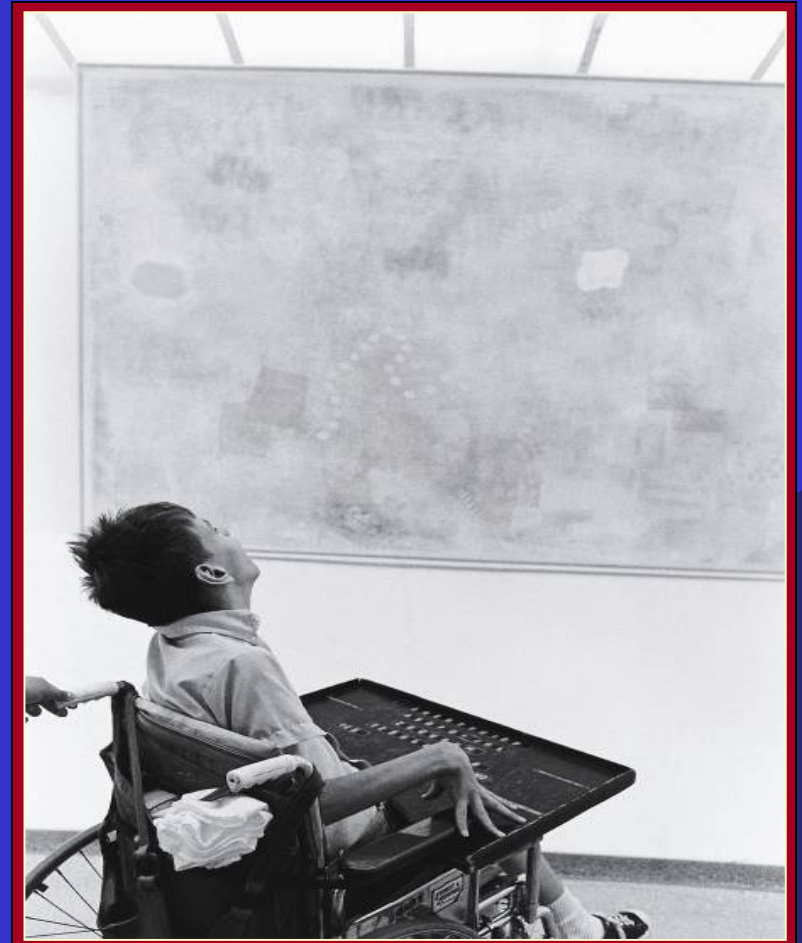
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- People First Language describes what a person **HAS**, not what a person **IS**!
- Are you myopic or do you wear glasses?
- Are you cancerous or do you have cancer?
- Are you disabled or do you have a disability?
- People First Language puts the person before the disability
- The words we choose to use, say a lot about how we think and feel. Using language that is respectful lets others know that, “this is a place where people of all abilities are welcome and valued!”

# People First Language Speaking with Awareness

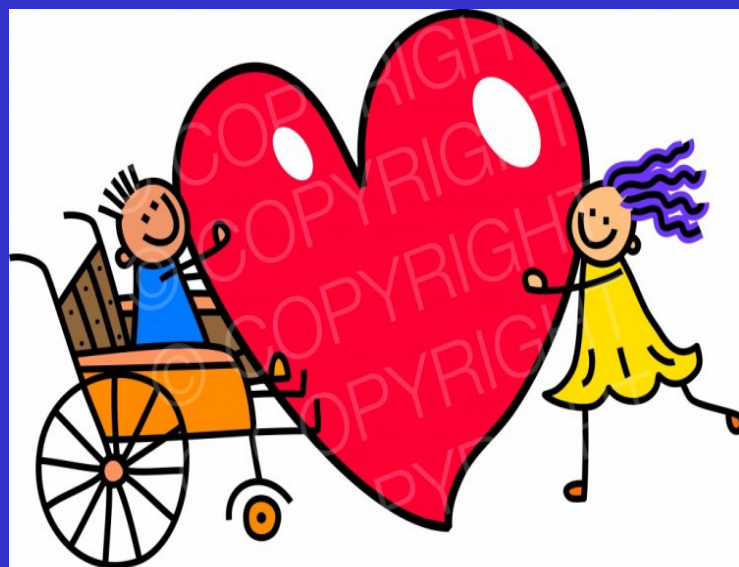
The difference  
between the right  
word and the almost  
right word is the  
difference between  
lightening and the  
lightening bug.

*Mark Twain*



# Best Practice

- See the student first not the disability
- Talk directly to student – not through interpreter or companion
- Focus on students' abilities
- Anticipate differences/ learner variability
- Plan for students' needs before they come –UD/UDL



# Best Practice



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- **Use your resources – Parents, caregivers, IEP's, and students themselves. Open and honest communication with students, parents and caregivers is the best way to learn about your students.**



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# THE ARTS ARE FOR EVERYONE!

Eleni Michael, *Dancing with the Dog*, 1995  
from *Drawing Autism* by Jill Mulin