

INTRODUCTION

- To gain knowledge about disability and tips for social etiquette and positive interactions.
- To increase basic knowledge, initiate discussion, and clarify myths and facts about people with disabilities.
- Gain a better understanding of disability issues and the disability community as a whole.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT

- The biggest changes within the disability rights movement began with the civil rights movements of the 1960's.
- In 1973 language for people with disabilities was added to the Rehabilitation Act.
- There was also a movement in the 1970's to provide access to educational services for children and youth with disabilities. The Education for All Handicapped Children Act passed in 1975.
- (1990) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) called for free and appropriate education for every child with a disability to be provided in the least restrictive environment.
- Americans with Disabilities act (1990) ensures equal access to employment opportunities and public accommodations for people with disabilities.

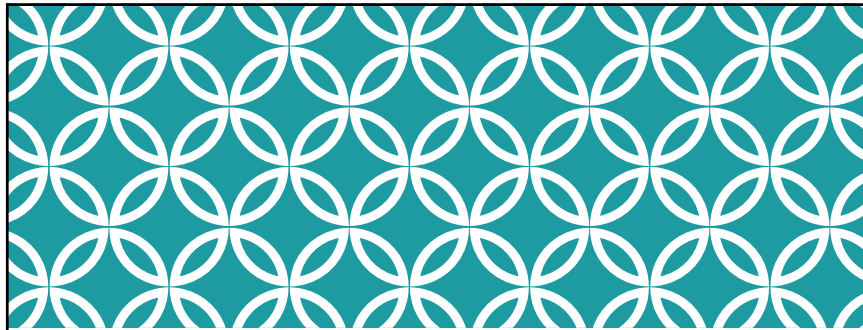


POSITIVE INTERACTIONS

- Avoid euphemisms such as “physically challenged,” “special needs,” “differently abled” and “handi-capable.”
- Do not sensationalize a disability by using terms such as “afflicted with,” “suffers from” or “crippled with.”
- When referring to people who use wheelchairs, avoid terms such as “wheelchair bound” or “confined to a wheelchair.”
- When writing or speaking about people with disabilities, emphasize abilities rather than limitations, focusing on a person's accomplishments, creative talents or skills.
- Words like “special” can be viewed as pity or feeling sorry for someone.

SPEAKING WITH AWARENESS

- Person with a disability vs. handicapped; crippled; suffers from a disability
- Person who is blind; person with a visual impairment vs. the blind
- Person who is deaf; person with a hearing impairment vs. the deaf; deaf and dumb; suffers a hearing loss
- Person using a wheelchair vs. confined or restricted to a wheel chair; wheelchair bound
- Accessible seating or accessible parking vs. handicapped section or handicapped parking



PRESUME COMPETENCE

*Supporting independence
through social interaction*

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

In general people tend to presume the positive unless they receive information to the contrary.

- Ex. “I am going to enjoy my time at the Theatre.”

There is a long standing myth and perception of people with disabilities; prejudice is common

We often put up attitudinal barriers.

- Low expectations are the norm.
- Have we given them a chance to try?

Remember, there is no proof that the presence of a disability automatically means the individual is incompetent.

We can presume competence and create communities where all are valued and included.

POSITIVE INTERACTIONS

- Ask if assistance is needed
- Be patient
- Make eye contact and address the person directly
- If asking a question, offer choices for the answer
- Remember to treat them as you would any other individual

IMPROVING ACCESS

How can we help?

CONSIDER SUPPORTS NEEDED FOR A PERFORMER WITH -

- a visual impairment
- a hearing impairment or is deaf
- a mobility impairment requiring the use of a walker or wheelchair
- intellectual and developmental disabilities
- multiple disabilities

THE VALUE OF ARTS IN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The arts enhance both personal and academic success.

The arts represent a world of resources and opportunities -

- Provide an outlet for creative expression and unlimited possibilities
- People with disabilities are free to express themselves without physical, social, or attitudinal barriers

By engaging in the arts people with disabilities are able to

- contribute to our workplaces and communities
- help extinguish old stereotypes
- create a global culture representative of all people



REFERENCES

Access and Opportunities, a guide to disability awareness; VSA arts www.vsaarts.org

People First Language;
https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/pdf/disabilityposter_photos.pdf

Challenging Conventional Wisdom About People with Disabilities, Kathie Snow,
www.disabilityisnatural.com