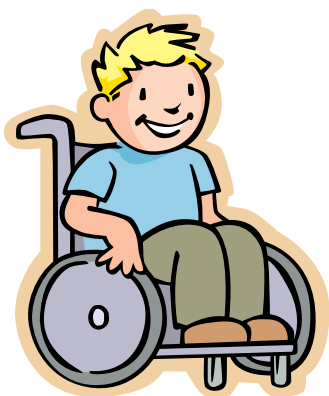


**DIGNITY,**



**RESPECT**

**FOR**

**OTHERS**

**STARTS**

**WITH**

**PERSON-FIRST**

**LANGUAGE**

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# *People First!*

Using person-first language emphasizes the person not the disability.

Say *person with a disability* rather than *disabled person*. Take care to emphasize abilities not limitations.

Try using *person who uses a wheelchair* or *walks with crutches* rather than *confined to a wheelchair* or *crippled*.

Labels such as *retard* or *the deaf* are demeaning. Use *people with mental retardation* or *people who are deaf* instead.

**REMEMBER:** Most people with disabilities want to be thought as ordinary citizens!



900 Lawrence Drive  
West Chester, PA 19380  
610-696-8090  
[www.arcofchestercounty.org](http://www.arcofchestercounty.org)

Message Courtesy of Chester County Department  
of Mental Health/Mental Retardation