



Disability Etiquette

Disability History and Awareness Weeks

School District of Indian River County

October 5th – 16th, 2020

People with disabilities are **people!**

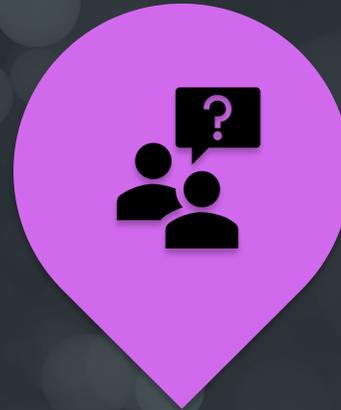


- ▶ Everyone wants to belong and feel included.
- ▶ People with disabilities are sometimes excluded from conversations because their peers feel awkward or nervous about saying the wrong thing.
- ▶ Relax – it is better to include someone and work through any awkwardness than to exclude people who feel lonely or left out!
- ▶ Think about how you would feel and how you would want people to treat you – don't be afraid to reach out and be a friend!
- ▶ There are things we can do to make communication easier for everyone.

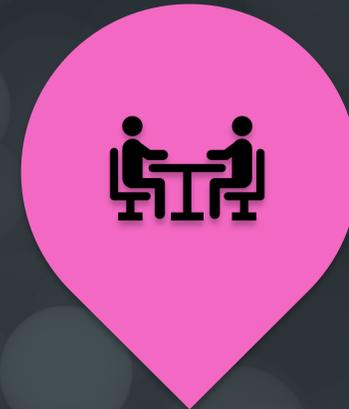
Using etiquette to speak



Speak about a person with a disability by first referring to the person and then to the disability.



If you offer assistance, wait until the offer is accepted.



When talking with a person with a disability, speak directly to that person rather than to a companion or sign language interpreter who may be present.

Using etiquette to listen

Move away from a noisy source and try to find a quiet environment for communicating with the person.

Look at the person when they are speaking. Be patient if they have a hard time, and don't try to speak for them.

Don't pretend to understand if you are having a hard time. It is ok to ask someone to repeat, and it is ok to say that you didn't understand!



Using etiquette to help

- ▶ Respect the personal space of people in wheelchairs. Do not hang or lean on the wheelchair.
- ▶ If a person asks you to guide them, allow them to take your arm just above the elbow when your arm is bent. Walk ahead of the person you are guiding. Never grab a person who is blind or visually impaired by the arm and push him/her forward.
- ▶ Guide dogs are working mobility tools. Do not pet them, feed them, or distract them while they are working.
- ▶ Be calm and clear about what to do if you see a person who is blind or visually impaired about to encounter a dangerous situation.



When everyone is included, we
are truly SDIRC – Stronger
Together!