HumanKind

PEOPLE FIRST LANGUAGE

SAY/WRITE...	INSTEAD OF...
Child with a disability	handicapped or disabled
Individual with cerebral palsy	palsied, CP or spastic
Person who has….	Afflicted, suffers from, victim of
Nonverbal (with speech)	mute or dumb
Child(ren) with autism	autistic
Developmental delay	slow or retarded
Emotional disorder/mental illness	crazy or insane
Deaf or has a hearing impairment	deaf and dumb
Communicates with sign language	signer
Uses a wheelchair	confined to a wheelchair
Has a cognitive; with disabilities	retarded
He has epilepsy	epileptic
Adult with Down syndrome	mongoloid, suffers from Down syndrome
Has a learning disability	is learning disabled
Has a physical disability	is physically disabled/crippled
Non-disabled normal,	healthy
Congenital disability	birth defect
Condition disease (unless it IS)	Seizures fits
Cleft lip	hare lip
Has mobility impairment	lame or crippled
Paralyzed	invalid or paralytic
Has quadriplegia	quadriplegic
Has paraplegia	paraplegic

Not all people with disabilities agree on which language or terminology is preferred like any other large, yet identifiable group of people. Individuals will vary as to how they refer to themselves and how they would like you to refer to them.