

Examples of Person-First Language

SAY:



INSTEAD OF:

A student with a disability. A handicapped student.

He is a student with an intellectual disability. He is slow/is retarded.

She is a student with autism. She is autistic.

He is a student who has Down syndrome. He is a Downs kid.

She is a student with a learning disability. She is learning disabled.

He is a student with a physical disability. He is quadriplegic/is crippled.

She is a student who receives special ed services. She is in special ed.

He is a student with an emotional disability. He is emotionally disturbed.

She is a student who uses a wheelchair. She is confined to/is wheelchair bound.

He uses a communication device to speak. He is nonverbal/can't talk.

He is a student with a developmental delay. He is developmentally delayed.

She is a student who has seizures. She is epileptic/a seizure kid.

He is a student with a hearing impairment.. He is a deaf kid.

He is a student with a congenital disability. He is deformed/has a birth defect.

She is a student with a brain injury. She is brain damaged.

She uses an accessible bus. She uses a handicapped bus.

He is a student with ADHD. He is ADHD/is hyperactive.

