

Definitions of Disability Terms.

- **Autism:** a developmental disability that affects the verbal and non verbal communication as well as social interactions.
- **Deafness:** a hearing impairment that is so severe that it affects the individual's educational performance.
- **Hearing impairment:** an impairment in hearing but not defined as deafness.
- **Cognitive disability:** sub-average intelligence and deficits in adaptive behavior.
- **Multiple disabilities:** a combination of severe impairments. This term does not include deaf-blindness.
- **Deaf-blindness:** the combination of hearing and visual impairments.
- **Speech or language impairments:** a communication disorder such as stuttering that affects the individual's educational performance.
- **Visual impairment:** including blindness means an impairment in vision.
- **Traumatic Brain Injury:** an injury to the brain by an external force.

* www.ideapractices.org

A special thanks from
Student Council for Exceptional
Children to our readers and the
time they took to learn
Person First Language.
Also, we would like to thank the
Service Learning Department at
UWEC for supporting our
project.

*For more information contact:

www.ed.gov

www.50.pcepd.gov

www.ideapractices.org

Americans with Disabilities Act of
1990

Student Council for Exceptional
Children
2001

Person First Language



Student Council
For Exceptional
Children

University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire
2001

Purpose of Using Person First Language

The Student Council for Exceptional children has realized the need for making our community aware of the correct portrayal of individuals with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities have historically been perceived as "retarded" or "handicapped" persons. Recent legislation such as the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990* and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 1997*, promotes the use of Person First Language. Person First Language is referring to the person before the disability. When we use Person First Language we look at the person first and the disability second.



It's time to change the language to make the person before the disability.

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Examples of Person First Language:

- Person with a disability.
- Person with a cognitive disability.
- Person who is blind, or a person with a visual impaired.
- Person who is deaf, or a person who is hard of hearing.
- Person with cerebral palsy
- Person with epilepsy, or person with a seizure disorder.
- Person who uses a wheelchair.
- Person who has muscular dystrophy.
- Person who is physically disabled.
- Person who is unable to speak, or uses synthetic speech.
- Person with a psychiatric disability.

Examples of NOT using Person First Language:

- The disabled or handicapped child.
- Retarded or mentally defective boy.
- The blind girl.
- Suffers a hearing loss or the deaf.
- CP victim.
- Epileptic man named Jerome.
- Confined or restricted to a wheelchair.
- Stricken by MD.
- Crippled, lame, or deformed.
- Dumb, or mute neighbor.
- Crazy or nuts professor.

* www.50.pcepd.gov