

Helpful Tips for Interacting with People with Disabilities



People with disabilities are just like their typical peers in that they **crave communication** and **desire connection!**

Try not to make assumptions: Use **people first language** unless stated otherwise by the person you are engaging with. Some people prefer one over the other. **Ex.** Person with autism versus Autistic.



Respond to the **individual** instead of the aide or caretaker.



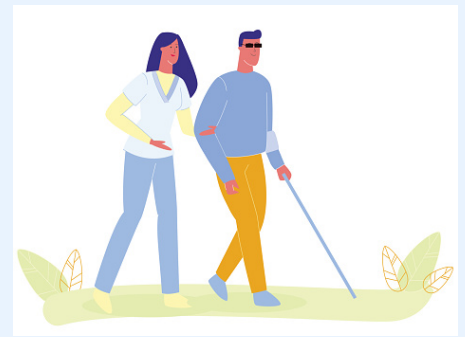
Ask before helping and do not touch their equipment, such as a wheelchair, without **permission**.



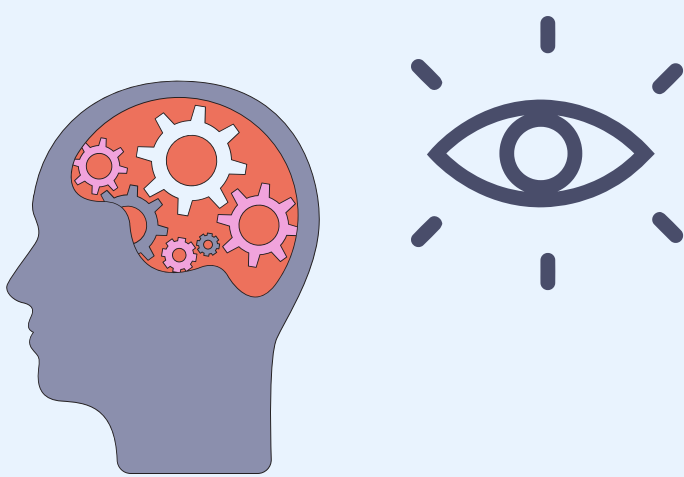
Think before you speak: Start a conversation and treat them as you would **anyone else!**



Hearing Impaired: Some may be able to lip read, use sign language, or assistive tech. **Ask** about their **preferred** communication style!



Visually Impaired: Introduce yourself and **notify** them when you leave. **Never grab** or **touch** the individual unless they ask for help.



Speech and Language Impairment: Give them **time** to communicate and be **respectful**. Try not to finish their sentences.



Cognitive Disability: Make eye contact, speak clearly, and have patience. Good communication **takes time!**

