

Disability etiquette

Did you know more than 1 in 4 adults in the United States have a disability? People with disabilities have the same rights and the right to the same opportunities as those without a disability. Everyone can benefit from learning more ways to interact with people with disabilities. Engaging with people with disabilities is a great opportunity to be inclusive and can fully participate in all aspects of life.

Etiquette tips

Using person-first language is important when communicating with individuals with disabilities. We can all address our language choices and work toward more inclusive and thoughtful communication.

Avoid making assumptions about people with disabilities. People with disabilities are unique individuals and everyone is different. Assumptions and stereotypes limit our ability to get to know a person and see their true value.

Treat people with dignity and respect and avoid using language that is patronizing, demeaning, condescending, or hurtful.

If you are uncertain how a person would like to be treated, ask them.

If you offer assistance and it is rejected, respect the answer and do not insist on providing assistance

Avoiding feeding, petting, or distracting service animals.

Resources

[Disability etiquette video](#)

[Disability etiquette: A starting guide](#)

[Disability etiquette guide](#)



1. Are you using person-first language?
2. Are you treating everyone as a valued individual?
3. Are you avoiding making assumptions about a person's limitations or abilities?
4. Are you asking questions about what a person needs?