

Tips for interacting with a person with...



Cerebral Palsy

Look, listen, understand and treat the person as you would like to be treated

Many people with CP have slurred speech and involuntary body movements. Your impulse may be to discount what they have to say. Monitor your responses and interact with the person as you would with anyone else.

Take care serving hot drinks or food and provide necessary straws or eating utensils

Find ways of communicating with the person. Maintain eye contact, sit down if appropriate.

Be willing to communicate in different ways if necessary, such as using a communication board or other verbal and non-verbal cues.

Do not separate the person from their adaptive aids or equipment.

Conversations should always be directed at the person, not at any companion who may be with them.

Be patient when talking to someone with a communication difficulty. Resist the temptation to interrupt or to answer on their behalf.