

Tips For Interacting with a person with a...



Developmental Disability

People with developmental disabilities may learn slowly. They may take a longer time to use what they have learned and apply it from one setting or situation to another

Speak to the person in clear sentences, using simple words and concrete-rather than abstract-concepts. Help the person understand a complex idea by breaking it down into smaller parts.

Do not use baby talk or talk down to people who have developmental disabilities. Gauge the pace, complexity, and vocabulary of your speech according to theirs.

Remember that the person is an adult and can make his or her own decisions.

People with developmental disabilities may be anxious to please. During an interview the person may tell you what she thinks you want to hear. Questions should be phrased in a neutral way so the person gives you accurate information.

It can be difficult for people with developmental disabilities to make quick decisions. Be patient and allow the person to take their time.

Clear signage with pictograms can help a person who has developmental disabilities to find her way around a facility.

People with developmental disabilities often rely on routine and on the familiar to manage work and daily living. Be aware that a change in the environment or in a routine may require some attention and a period of adjustment.