

CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE  
in Developmental  
Disabilities

**Words** can hurt or  
words can welcome.

**Language** shapes  
our attitudes.

Respectful language  
makes **a difference**.

People with disabilities  
are **people** first!

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**Think** before  
you speak!

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Put **the person**  
first. Say “person  
with a disability,”  
not “handicapped  
person.” Say “John has  
a disability” or “Mary  
uses a wheelchair.”

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**Ask people** to  
stop using the word  
“retard” as an insult.

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**All people** dream,  
learn, succeed, and  
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