

Etiquette for Working with Persons with Disabilities

It's great to offer your help to someone...but ask first. Or wait for the person with a disability to ask for your help.

When talking with people who use wheelchairs, if possible, sit down so that won't have to look up at you.

It's okay to use words like "see", "hear", "run" and "walk" when talking to people with disabilities.

Use "people first" language, for example, "the employee who is blind," rather than "the blind employee".

It's okay to ask people who are deaf or people who have speech impairments to repeat what they say if you don't understand them the first time.

If an interpreter is helping you speak with a person who is deaf, make sure you talk to that person, not to the interpreter.

People who are blind can hear what you say as well as anybody. Don't speak loudly when talking with them or to people with other disabilities.

Canine companions, such as seeing-eye dogs, are working and on the job. Never pet or play with them because they can't be distracted from their work.

Treat a person with a disability the way you would like to be treated.

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