WORDS CAN HURT... OR
WORDS CAN WELCOME

RESPECTFUL LANGUAGE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Language shapes our attitudes.

Ask others to stop using the word “retard” to insult people.

Language shapes our attitudes.

Use the words “person with a disability” instead of “handicapped person”

Disrespectful language is intentionally used by insecure and biased people

“Handicapped” and “crippled” are outdated terms. Use words such as “has a disability” or “uses a wheelchair”.

Use the word “accessible” rather than “disabled” or “handicapped.” i.e. “accessible” parking rather than “disabled” or “handicapped” parking.

Words such as client and consumer create an image of passivity and should not be used to define a person with a disability. A person with a disability is a person first; not a client or consumer

Disrespectful language excludes and sustains a negative perception of people with disabilities

Think before you speak