The Language of Respect Quiz

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**Overview:** The use of disabilist language is a major form of bullying and can contribute to poor self esteem and mental wellbeing for disabled people.

Many children and young people are unaware of the meaning and impact of some of the language they use for disabled people. This activity will challenge their own beliefs and equip them with the knowledge to challenge others when they are using disabilist language.

**Outcome:** This activity will help young people to learn respectful language about disability and disabled people. They will understand the power of respectful language and the impact of negative language

Young people will be introduced to Social Model of Disability through respectful language and will gain some of the tools needed to challenge the disablist attitudes of others.

**Time:** 25 minutes

**Materials:**

1 x Answer sheet

Copies of the Language of Respect game sheet for each participant

Optional: Prizes for the winner(s) (stickers, medals, etc)

**Activity instructions:**

* Print 1x Language of Respect Answer Sheet and print enough copies of the Language of Respect game sheet for each member of the group.
* Read each term and ask each participant to circle the term they think is respectful to disabled people.
* Once they have finished ask for a show of hands for each term. Tell the participants the correct answer and ask them if anyone knows why the other term is not respectful or why the correct answer is more respectful.
* If no-one can fully explain why one term is the respectful term, give them the explanation from the sheet.
* Once all of the questions have been completed have the participants add up their scores and give the winner(s) a prize if you have them.

Circle the term that you think is the most respectful

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Disabled person | The disabled |
| Retarded person | Person with a learning difficulty |
| Non-disabled | Able bodied |
| Person suffering from cerebral palsy | Person with cerebral palsy |
| Wheelchair user | Wheelchair bound |
| Disabled toilet | Accessible toilet |
| Special Needs | Special Educational Needs |

The Language of Respect Answer Sheet

There is no way we can always get it right. Disabled people may even disagree among themselves about their preferred name. As long as we respect the person and make our best effort to call people what they wish to be called, we should not be anxious about getting it exactly right.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Preferred term | Words we don’t use | Why? |
| Disabled people | The disabled | ‘Disabled person’ acknowledges the way society disables people, i.e. people are disabled by social barriers, e.g. inaccessible buildings, negative attitudes, and policies which prevent disabled people from having equality of opportunity in education, employment, housing, transport, leisure etc.  Avoid using ‘The disabled’: To call any group of people ‘the’ anything is to dehumanise them. |
| Person with a learning difficulty | Retarded person | The word retarded was originally a term used for people with learning difficulties and is now used to insult people. By calling someone retarded in an insulting manner, you’re suggesting that having learning difficulties is something to poke fun at or be teased for.  Person with a learning difficulty is the term people with learning difficulties have chosen themselves. |
| Non-disabled | Able bodied | ‘Able bodied’ assumes that people are only physically disabled.  ‘Non-disabled’ is anyone who is not disabled.  In addition, the term ‘non-disabled’ implies a continuum between all people and indicates that disability affects everyone in time. |
| Person with cerebral palsy | Person suffering from cerebral palsy | ‘Suffering from’ implies pain. Not all impairments come with pain.  ‘Person with’: The person has a condition or impairment, which in this case is cerebral palsy |
| Wheelchair user | Wheelchair bound | Wheelchair users see their wheelchair as a means of mobility and freedom, not something that restricts them, apart from problems with lack of access. |
| Accessible toilet | Disabled toilet | The toilet is not disabled |
| Special Educational Needs | Special Needs | Special Educational Needs is the legal term used for school only. In any other situation we would say that a person has specific or individual requirements in order to do the same things as everyone else. Disabled people’s needs are not more ‘special’ than anyone else’s. |

Useful site for further information:

<http://www.equalitytraining.co.uk/images/news/language_of_respect.pdf>