

The Naval Air System Command has published a chart to help with some of the key language principles that will assist those who are working to improve sensitivity toward and inclusion of persons with disabilities. Most of the language suggestions in the chart below have been taken from the Navy Air System chart.

Terms/words with strong negative connotations
Do Not Use

Affirmative terms that reflect a more positive attitude and dignity
Use

Handicap	Physical disability
The Handicapped person	Person with disability
Crippled	Person who has.....
Spastic	Person with Cerebral Palsy, person with Tourette Syndrome, person with.....
Moron, retard, feeble-minded	Person with developmental or mental disability
Midget	Little person, short in stature
Poor, Unfortunate	
Crazy, Insane	Person with mental or emotional disability
Deformed	Born with.... Or Caused by....
Deaf and Dumb	Deaf person
Stutterer	Person with a speech impediment
Confined to a Wheelchair Normal (acceptable only for quoting statistics)	Person who uses a wheelchair Nondisabled (referring to a nondisabled person as normal insinuates that persons with disabilities are abnormal)