

Disability in Afterschool 101: The Basics

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Did You Know?

**1 in 5 has a
disability**

Individuals with disabilities are **not**:

tragedy of birth defects

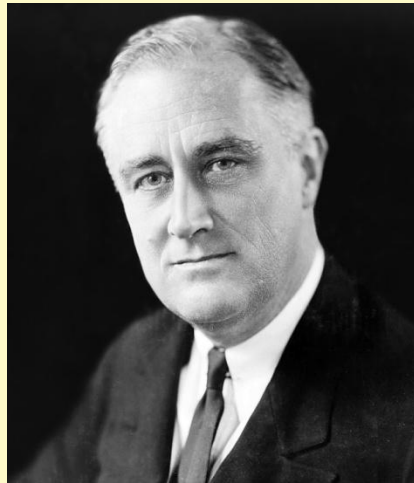
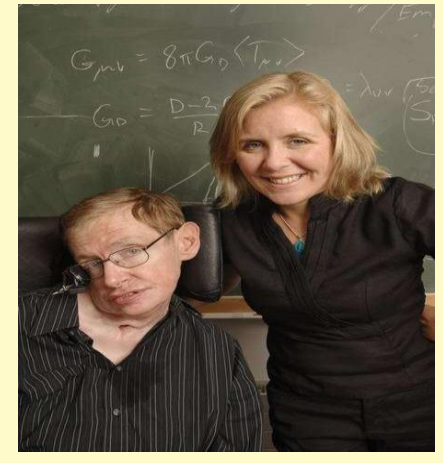
afflicted

victims

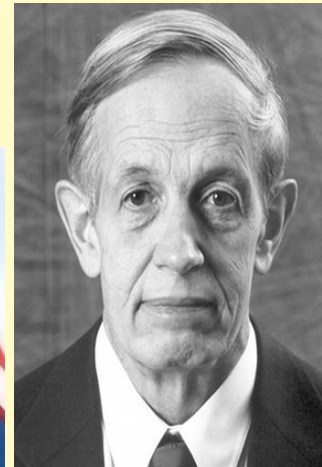
struggle to become *normal*

Suffers from

fight to overcome



they are
people



Is there a
universally
accepted
definition
of disability?





“a **physical or mental** impairment that substantially **limits one or more** major life activities”

and a

Record of impairment and **being regarded** as having impairment.

“**limited in any way in any activities**
because of physical, mental, or emotional
problems”

“any **health problem that requires** use
of **special equipment**, such as a cane, a
wheelchair, a special bed, or a special
telephone”

CDC
BRFSS
Definition

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance
System, CDC, 2012

Types of Disabilities

- Hearing
- Vision
- Movement
- Thinking
- Remembering
- Learning
- Communicating
- Mental health
- Social relationships

Prevalent disabilities in the **Afterschool setting**

- **1 in 6 children (15%)** in the United States has
1 or more
developmental disabilities

(Ages 3 through 17. Source: 2011, Pediatrics and CDC)

Types of Developmental Disabilities

- attention deficit/hyperactive disorder,
- autism spectrum disorders,
- cerebral palsy,
- hearing loss,
- intellectual disability,
- learning disability,
- vision impairment,
- and other developmental delays

Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)

14.3% of Youth in AL ages 4-17 **ever Diagnosed with ADHD**

About **1 out of every 6** kids diagnosed

(Source: National Survey of Children's Health, 2007)

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

1 in 50

school-age children diagnosed

Did you know?

The majority (62%) do not have an intellectual disability

(Source: CDC's 2011-2012 National Survey of Children's Health, parent reported)

Disability Rates are Rising

Prevalence Increases over the last 12 years:

- **DD's** by **17.1%**
- **Autism** by **289.5%**
- **ADHD** by **33.0%**



(Source: CDC)



**What do
you see
first?**



Sticks and Stones **can**

break my bones, but...

words

will **never hurt me.**

words,
language &
labels
are **POWERFUL!**

People First Language



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THE MOST APPROPRIATE LABEL IS
USUALLY THE ONE PEOPLE'S PARENTS
HAVE GIVEN THEM.

examples of people first language

Say this	Instead of
People with disabilities	The handicapped or the disabled
People without disabilities typical person	normal, healthy, able-bodied
Susie uses a wheelchair/mobility chair	She is wheelchair-bound / confined to a wheel chair
Congenital disability	Birth defect / affliction
Joe has a cognitive disability (diagnosis)	He is mentally retarded
Nancy has Down syndrome (or a diagnosis)	She's Down's/ Down's person; mongoloid
Mary receives special ed services	She is special ed; inclusion student

Say this	Instead of
Bobby has a physical disability (diagnosis)	He is crippled; quadriplegic
Debbie has a learning disability (diagnosis)	She is learning disabled
Jill has a mental health condition	She's emotionally disturbed/mentally ill
Jim has autism (or a diagnosis of...)	He's autistic
Jenny has a developmental delay	She's developmentally delayed
Brain injury	Brain damaged

exception to person-first rule:

Saying ‘the deaf’ and ‘the speech of the deaf’ violate the person-first rule.

However, the community of persons who are deaf prefer to use deaf with a **capital D** to denote the Deaf culture and the Deaf community, not the hearing loss.

The same can be said for those individuals who are blind.

**Now, what
do you see?**



Have you seen this in the News?



Courtesy Anne Belanger

People First Language and the Media

Can this be improved?

Wheelchair, Class Photo Didn't Mix; Disabled Boy Almost Edged Out (newspaper headline)

Better way

Miles Ambridge, 7-Year-Old In Wheelchair, Isolated By Photographer In Class Picture (newspaper headline)

Can it be reworded better? Sensationalized headline?

California Authorities Continue to Search for Autistic, 'Very Inquisitive' Girl (ABC News headline)

What is Inclusion?

Inclusion is being a part of what everyone else is, being welcomed and embraced as a member who belongs



Source: Kids Together, Inc.

Benefits of inclusion of students with special needs in classroom

Academic gains in a number of areas, including:

- Improved performance on standardized tests
- Mastery of individualized education goals
- Higher grades
- Improved behavior
- Increased motivation to learn



Bottom line = beneficial to all kids

(Source: National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities)

Benefits of Afterschool programs for special needs kids

- Higher academic achievement
- Improved school attendance
- Higher aspirations
- Improved social competence
- Improved behavior



(Source: National Center for Technology Innovation and Center for Implementing Technology in Education)

Legal Responsibilities for Inclusion

- The Americans with Disabilities Act (*ADA*) (1990)
- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (*IDEA*) (1975)
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973



Potential Problems

- Children with disabilities not considered in decisions that affect all children/students
- Low or no expectations for students with disabilities
- Stereotyping by label and categorical placements
- False perceptions that "children" must be ready, instead of classes/programs being ready for students
- Teacher preparation not adequately addressing inclusion of students with disabilities

Possible Solutions

- Anti-bullying / Inclusion games
- Model Respect
- Knowledge & awareness of each child
- Provide modifications & accommodations as needed

More Solutions – Adapt the environment

- Use a “**Go To**” Bag
- Support **positive** behavior



Another Solution - Work with Families

- From the start, you set the tone
- Ask about a child's behavior
- See families as advocates
- Learn about previous experiences
- Realize Families are doing the best they can!



“I don’t think of him as my son with Asperger’s. I think of him as my son. **He’s not wrong. He’s not broken.** He is who he is. We, as his parents, are going to do our best — as we do with all of our kids — to give him the best shot at having the best life he can.”

Christopher Gorham, Actor

Source: Disability Scoop

Questions?

For additional resources contact:

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