

Developmental Disabilities or Mental Retardation

The term Mental Retardation is not used any longer for the most part.

The term Developmental or Intellectual disability is used now to describe such conditions.

PEOPLE WITH Developmental or Intellectual disability learn slowly.

They have a hard time using what they have learned and applying it from one setting or situation to another.

Speak to the person in clear sentences, using simple words and concrete terms rather than abstract concepts.

Help them understand a complex idea by breaking it down into smaller parts.

Do not use baby-talk or talk down to people who have Developmental or Intellectual disability.

Remember that the person is an adult and, unless you are informed otherwise, can make their own decisions.

People with Developmental or Intellectual disabilities may be anxious to please.

During an interview, the person may tell you what they think you.

During an interview, the person may tell you what they think you want to Hear.

This can have grave consequences if your interview technique is not effective in certain situations, such as in a law enforcement situation or a doctor's examination.

Questions should be phrased to elicit accurate information.

Verify responses by repeating each question in a different way.

It can be difficult for people with Developmental or Intellectual disability to make quick decisions.

Be patient and allow the person to take their time.

Clear signage with pictograms can help a person who is Developmental or Intellectual disability to find their way around a facility.