



# JUSTICE FOR ALL



## TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- ✓ TRY TO KEEP YOUR SURROUNDINGS QUIET AND FREE FROM DISTRACTIONS
- ✓ MAKE EYE CONTACT BEFORE YOU SPEAK AND SAY THE PERSON'S NAME OFTEN
- ✓ USE SIMPLE LANGUAGE, REPEAT POINTS, SPEAK SLOWLY AND CLEARLY
- ✓ CLEARLY IDENTIFY YOURSELF, EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE THERE
- ✓ GIVE ONE DIRECTION, OR ASK ONE QUESTION AT A TIME



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## TIPS FOR COMMUNICATING WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- ✓ HAVE THE PERSON REPEAT DIRECTIONS. INSTRUCTIONS IN THEIR OWN WORDS
- ✓ ASK "YES/NO" TYPE QUESTIONS
- ✓ BE PATIENT. WAIT FOR A RESPONSE
- ✓ AVOID ABSTRACT QUESTIONS ON TIME/SEQUENCES/REASONS FOR BEHAVIOR
- ✓ OBSERVE BEHAVIOR AS NONVERBAL COMMUNICATION
- ✓ TREAT AN ADULT AS AN ADULT, BUT BE SENSITIVE TO THEIR SPECIAL NEEDS



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## TRAITS OFTEN SEEN IN PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

May not communicate at age level:

- Limited vocabulary
- Difficulty understanding/answering questions
- Mimic answers/responses
- Unable to communicate events clearly in his/hers words

May not understand consequences of situations:

- Unaware of serious situations
- Easily led or persuaded by others
- Naive eagerness to confess or please



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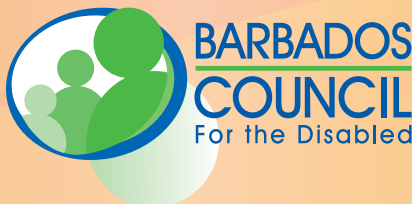
## TRAITS OFTEN SEEN IN PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

May not behave appropriately:

- Unaware of social norms and appropriate social behaviors
- Acts younger than actual age, may display childlike behavior
- Mimic answers/responses
- Displays low frustration tolerance and/or poor impulse control

May have difficulty performing tasks:

- Inability to read, write, tell time, change money
- Difficulty staying focused and easily distracted
- Awkward/poor motor coordination



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## COMMUNICATING WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

For further information please contact:

**BARBADOS COUNCIL FOR THE DISABLED**

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