Working with persons with Cerebral Palsy

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is a disorder that affects muscle tone, movement, and motor skills (the ability to move in a coordinated and purposeful way).

The Language of Disability

Don't Use

- Handicapped, crippled, physically challenged, differently abled, an invalid, the disabled
- He suffers from cerebral palsy
- Dwarf or midget
- Deformed, deformity, birth defect
- Special bathroom or paraplegic bathroom

Rather Use

- Disabled people, persons with disabilities, disability, impairment
- He is a person with cerebral palsy
- Person of short stature
- Person born without limbs or with a congenital disability
- Accessible bathroom
- Accessible Parking/Seating

Accessibility

- Ramps, gates (next to man-trap gates), doors next to turnstiles and automatic doors
- Voice activated software on laptop
- Manual to online documentation
- A stable and even floor surface and no obstructions on the accessible routes
- Accessible elevators
- Provision to allow for personal assistants tasked with any official work
- Accessible office furniture (e.g., desks at the correct height, tilted desks, adequate knee room, chair with arm rests higher seat)

Mindfulness

RESPECT personal space

Walking frames, crutches and canes are considered extensions of a user’s personal space.

Offer to HELP

Always offer a seat and offer to open doors. Be helpful, but make sure your offer is accepted before assisting.

Ask for permission before you touch or move them

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Accessible facilities can be used by anyone

They are not special, separate or different. Universal design provides for environments and items to suit the needs of ALL human beings.