## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE USE OF

## RESPECTFUL/PEOPLE FIRST

## LANGUAGE

SAY—	INSTEAD OF—
The woman who is blind	The blind woman
Uses a wheelchair or uses a chair	Wheelchair-bound, confined to a
	wheelchair, or a wheelchair client
Disability	Handicap
People without disabilities	Normal or whole
Speech disability	Mute, dumb, or speech impediment
People living with AIDS	AIDS victims
Person with a congenital disability	Deformed, deformity, or birth defect
Person with Down Syndrome	A Down's, mongol, or mongoloid
Cognitive disability	Mental retardation, slow learner,
	or lower functioning
Person with cerebral palsy	Palsied or spastic
People with spinal cord injuries	Spinal cord injured
Child with epilepsy	Epileptic
Person of short stature	Dwarf or midget
Man with paraplegia or she has paraplegia	
Person with mental illness	Crazy, insane, psycho, etc.
Person who has schizophrenia	Schizophrenic
Person with bipolar disorder or	
manic depressive illness	A manic depressive or a bipolar
People with disabilities	The retarded or the mentally ill
Has a disability	Defective, defect, deformed
Deaf	
Person with (name of disability)	
Has a learning disability	
Has a brain injury	
Receives special education	·
Has developmental delay	
Needs or uses	Has a problem or has special needs



E-mail: adap@adap.ua.edu Website: http://adap.ua.edu

Phone: 205-348-4928 Fax: 205-348-3909 TDD: 205-348-9484

