

## Disabilities

A disability is a mental or physical condition that prevents the body from working as it should. People have different forms of disabilities.

- Physical disabilities include: blindness, deafness, speech defects, paralysis (cripple) etc.
- Emotional disturbances and mental retardation are disabilities.

A disability is not a disease that can be spread to another person.

People who have disabilities want to be treated with respect, care and understanding. They also want to be independent and do as much for themselves as they can. Good citizens see disability as opportunities to learn more about people and their changes.

The following are ways to show respect for individual differences.

- Avoid using put-downs. Don't call people bad names.
- Put yourself in another's person's place and think about how they feel.
- Apologize if you hurt someone's feelings.
- Avoid talking unkindly about someone just because they look or act differently from you.
  
- Encourage others to try their best, regardless of their abilities.
- Be fair in dealing with others.
- Report acts of bullying or harassment to your teacher or another trusted adult.
- Appreciate what is special about yourself and others.
- Don't miss out on having good friends just because other people are different from you.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**A. Choose the correct answer.**

1. What is a disability?
  - (a) Emotional disturbance and mental retardation.
  - (b) A mental or physical condition that prevents the body from working.
  - (c) Physical disabilities such as blindness and speech defects.
  
2. How should we treat people with disabilities?
  - (a) We should call them names.
  - (b) We should not bully or harass them.
  - (c) Do not be friends with them.

**B. Read each phrase below. Write **physical disability** or **mental disability** next to each phrase to tell what kind of disability is described.**

3. A student with a broken arm. \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. A boy who always has problems concentrating while doing his work.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. A child who always reads and writes his/her letters backwards.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
6. A girl who uses a crutch to walk. \_\_\_\_\_

**C. Read each statement below. Write true or false next to each statement.**

7 You should always call people with disabilities bad names. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Appreciate what is special about yourself and others. \_\_\_\_\_

9. A disability can be spread to another person. \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Answer the following question.**

10. John attends school in a wheel chair. Is John's disability physical or mental?