

“Inclusion is Important”

Adapted from “Disability Awareness and History” Curriculum developed by the New Mexico Young Disability Leaders

1. **What can you (as a person) do to help people with disabilities to be included more?**
 - Focus on the person’s abilities not disabilities
 - Communicate directly with the person (eye contact)
 - Think of the person NOT as a victim
 - People with disabilities have various degrees of disabilities (low, moderate, high)
 - Don’t use negative words to describe people with disabilities (Not the “R” = Retarded Word)
2. **When you meet or greet a person with disabilities, what do you need to do?**
 - Remember they are a person just like you
 - If the person is Deaf or hard of hearing, you may need to write down what you want to say
 - Sit down and relax
 - If the person has a service animal, don’t pet it (as it is on duty and working)
 - If you are unsure about how to communicate with the person, ask the person directly
3. **As you see, inclusion of people with disabilities is very important. Each of us needs to do our part to be sure that all people are included.**

