

- Other words for disability
 - Children with Exceptionalities
 - Differently Abled
 - People with diverse needs
 - "children with special healthcare needs"
 - Developmental disabilities
 - autistic person vs person with autism is one I hear about a lot
 - Neurodiverse
 - "Challenged" from my childhood
 - people with exceptional abilities
 - "Special Ed"
 - wheelchair bound vs person who uses a wheelchair
- Challenging because you don't know how people want to be referred to. Have to have a conversation to find out what the individual's preference is.
 - Comment: That's so good Karen - build relationship, be kind, listen to each other!
 - Comment: You don't know how diverse people's lives are until you allow yourself to be vulnerable enough to share. We don't know what life is like for others unless we open our minds
 - Comment: I think so much can come from the attitude we have in wanting to understand / be curious / having grace for ourselves and others as we seek to understand
 - Comment: Really depends on the context
 - Comment: many disabled people have reclaimed "crip" as an identity (I'm in a lot of crip spaces)
 - Comment: My room partner educator is a little person, whenever a speaker or a person talks about the "little people" we work with he always cracks a joke to the speaker about how awesome "us little people are" to make them notice their language choices. I never noticed before working with him how often we call children "little people."
- Generational differences in how we refer to people with special needs
- Key is kindness
- Its OK to make mistakes
- Sometime you want people to know who you really are, its OK to acknowledge someone has a disability.
- "Sticky note" exercise, write down "what surprised you"
 - Widening options, verbal response, sticky note, stand by what you found most exciting
- Comment: In my after-school program we purchased seven pairs of noise-reducing headphones for each room. They are available on a shelf for any child who wants to use them. It normalizes the use of the headphones and children are able to use them whenever they need to without fear of being different. It's made a huge difference for all the children.

- Comment: Each child shares in a circle (if they feel comfortable doing so) - they can draw, show a picture they took with a phone/iPad, write, act out or verbally share their observation.
- Comment: Also is someone is non-verbal valuing other ways of communicating is essential!
- Valuing everybodys voice is more then words, looks at facial expressions and body language.
- Comment: Not sure if anyone else here has seen or used one of these but its a really neat accessibility tool that I've seen in action - Hippocampe chair
 - <https://www.vipamat.com/product/hippocampe-beach-wheelchair-for-all-terrain/>
- Comment: And for this if folks were looking for funding I recommend asking local credit unions/banks.
- Comment: WE have beach chairs and an all terrain chair available for Rent here in Santa Cruz.
- Comment: An example came up today about how to support children with sensory needs in the outdoors ... for some children the outdoors is calming with the space to move/calming effects of nature, for others I think it can be overwhelming with all of the sounds/smells/textures/weather that may be uncomfortable. Can you speak to your experience supporting children who may experience sensory aversions in the outdoors?
- Advice to young kids on how to include kids with disabilities in school
 - The education assistant/parent can help bridge that gap
 - THe more inclusive we become as a society the more familiar kids will be with people with disabilities, normalized it and makes it less intimidating.
- Comment: We had a little guy at our centre who was almost 2; he had a deformed hand with a few fingers fused together - winter time was hard for him with certain mittens and gloves
- Comment: For navigating language and inclusion one of the things I focus on for my preschoolers is narrating all of my interactions with kids and leading with curiosity when it comes to peer interactions "I wonder if ____ might like to play, should we go ask them? or "how can we make sure that everyone is able to play this game"
- Comment: We've had conversations at my daycare about how to support children with sensory needs who struggle to tolerate winter clothing/accessories while also keeping them safe in the winter while playing outside. We don't want to risk them getting hurt from the cold, but also want to respect their needs/dignity. We've heard horror stories of gloves being taped on to children so they can't take their gloves off.
 - I like an XL (or adult mitt) that has a looser cuff
- Comment: There are a number of great picture books that we use to start conversations with learners, create a safe space to ask questions, and increase awareness, even before they may meet a person in real life that is similar to a character in the book.
- Comment: We've had conversations at my daycare about how to support children with sensory needs who struggle to tolerate winter clothing/accessories while also keeping them safe in the winter while playing outside. We don't want to risk them getting hurt from the cold, but also want to respect their needs/dignity. We've heard horror stories of gloves being taped on to children so they can't take their gloves off.

Prepared by Clare :)

- Yes! That's such a delicate balance that I think we need to keep trying to figure out for each child - safety with cold and respect for preferences
- Comment: So you could create a bumper sticker with the co-exist but surrounding it all with a heart?
- Comment: Ruth, I just wanted to say a quote you said that has changed the way I've thought already. During session 2, I believe, you said something to ask ourselves is "Who is NOT here?"
- Since then, I've looked at every public space in a different way, especially our Childcare Centre
- Comment: My daughter has a sensory processing disorder and she's very sensitive to touch/germs. When we go to nature trails we bring black rubber gloves for her to wear to feed the chickadees and interact with nature without needing to physically touch the animals/natural items. That could be helpful for kids with sensory needs.
- Comment: We do something similar with my nephew who (diagnosis pending) has OCD focused on germs. We give him barriers between his skin/clothing and the things that make him anxious and it helps a lot. He loves being outside, but he doesn't want to touch things. So gloves, spare clothes to change into, and hand sanitizer all help.
- Vision of a more inclusive Society for our future
 - People with disabilities, values at all times by society
 - Ask questions if we don't know the answer
 - When we feel uncomfortable lean in, don't step back

