

# PALS!

## Attitude

Successful supported education depends largely upon the *attitude* of adults in the school community. An attitude of acceptance means understanding, appreciating, and celebrating each student's individuality with high expectations for success.

Let's begin with **People-First Language**. People-First Language is more than semantics. It is a paradigm that places importance on the person instead of the disability.

A child "who cannot hear" is first a child, a complex being with a multitude of abilities and needs — only one of which is the lack of hearing. This is a very different mind-set than talking about "a deaf child."

A "child who cannot move his/her limbs" can learn to do many things, has many likes and dislikes, loves to have fun, and yes, cannot walk — but is not a "handicapped child."

While labels are often necessary for identification in order to access funding for services, these labels do not define the child.



Activity Guide Sample - Child Activity  
Kids Just Want to Have Fun!  
866-811-8665



ChildActivity

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## Tell It Like It Is

Grades Pre-K - 4

If possible, share information with your class in advance. Factual, honest information is usually welcomed and accepted matter-of-factly by children. Ask children to imagine what they could or couldn't do if they had a specific disability. Discuss how they might feel coming into a new class. Show the video ***Kids Just Want to Have Fun.***

After the video, invite students to ask questions, share ideas on ways to make the new student feel welcome, and make the classroom accessible.

If there is no opportunity for preparation, help the new student to answer questions of peers. When equipment is involved, with parent permission, allow



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