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THINK BIG 2017

DVR INTERACTIVE STATIONS

Disability Overview

Physical Disability

Simply stated, a physical disability is any type of physical condition that significantly impacts one or more major life activities. That is a pretty broad definition, but the types of physical disabilities, their causes, and the manner in which they impact a person's life are wide-ranging and virtually limitless.

Types of physical disability

Physical disabilities can be the result of congenital birth issues, accidental injury, or illness. When you consider the huge number of possible causes of physical disabilities, you can quickly see how it is impossible to provide a comprehensive list naming each condition. Additionally, one physical condition might

be considered disabling to one person but not the next. The key aspect in defining physical disability is not whether a person has a specific condition but how that physical condition impacts his or her daily life.

Examples of physical disabilities:

- amputation
- arthritis
- cerebral palsy
- Spina bifida
- multiple-sclerosis
- muscular dystrophy
- acquired spinal injury (paraplegia or quadriplegia)

Possible Effects:

The effects of physical/mobility disabilities can be visible or invisible. They can include the inability to walk and/or use arms, hands, and fingers. Many people use wheelchairs, crutches, or canes. Persons may also have pain management issues. In addition people with physical disabilities may need attendants to help them with personal care. Attendants may be used for transport and physical classroom assistance.

Vocational Challenges

1. Learning work skills
2. Self-Direction
4. Communication
5. Interpersonal skills
6. Work tolerance
7. Mobility
8. Self Care
9. Transportation
10. Problems reading basic information
11. Emotional Regulation
12. Trouble with decision making
13. Co-occurring sensory and physical impairment may hamper vocational endeavors
14. May need constant supervision

Considerations for Successfully Working Together

- Relax. If you don't know what to say or do, allow the person with the disability to help put you at ease. Always ask the person the best way to give assistance.
- Offer assistance, but wait until it is accepted before giving it. Respect the person's right to indicate the kind of help needed or to refuse help.
- When talking with a person who uses a wheelchair, try to converse at eye level; sit down if a chair is available. Also, remember that a wheelchair is the person's personal space; so do not lean on, touch, or push the chair unless asked.
- Appreciate what the person can do. Treat the person as you would any other person. Because an individual has a functional limitation does not mean they are incapable of working.
- Be considerate of the extra time it might take for the person to get things done.

Resources

Craig Hospital (TBI/Spinal cord injuries)

3425 S. Clarkston St.
Englewood, CO 80113
303-789-8000

Ability Connection Colorado (Cerebral Palsy)

801 Yosemite Street Denver,
CO 80230
Phone: 303.691.9339 Fax:
303.691.0846

Amputee Coalition

<http://www.amputee-coalition.org/>