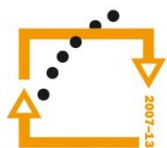




EVROPSKÁ UNIE



MINISTERSTVO ŠKOLSTVÍ,
MLÁDEŽE A TĚLOVÝCHOVY



**OP Vzdělávání
pro konkurenceschopnost**

INVESTICE
DO ROZVOJE
VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

People with physical disabilities

Jitka N. Sinecká



Physical disability

- A **physical disability** is any impairment which limits the physical function of one or more limbs or fine or gross motor ability. Other physical disabilities include impairments which limit other facets of daily living, such as respiratory disorders and epilepsy.

Access issues

- Inability to gain access to inaccessible building or room.
- Decreased eye-hand coordination.
- Impaired verbal communication.
- Decreased physical stamina and endurance.

Considerations

- If a person uses a wheelchair, conversations at different eye levels are difficult. If a conversation continues for more than a few minutes and if it is possible to do so, sit down, kneel, or squat and share eye level.
- A wheelchair is part of the person's body space. Do not automatically hang or lean on the chair; it is similar to hanging or leaning on the person. It is fine if you are friends but inappropriate otherwise.
- When it appears that a person needs assistance, ask if you can help. Most persons will ask for assistance if they need it. Accept a „no thank you" graciously.
- Using words like „walking" or „running" are appropriate. Sensitivity to these words is not necessary. People who use wheelchairs use the same words.
- People with physical disabilities are not „confined" to wheelchairs. They often transfer over to automobiles and to furniture. Some who use wheelchairs can walk with the aid of canes, braces, crutches or walkers. Using a wheelchair some of the time does not mean an individual is „faking" a disability. It may be a means to conserve energy or move about more quickly.
- If a person's speech is difficult to understand, do not hesitate to ask him/her to repeat.

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"For people without disability, technology makes life easier, for people with disabilities, technology makes life possible".

(Martinez-Marrero & Estrada-Hernandez, 2008)



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