



PROJECT AWWOL

A World WithOut Labels

Respectful Interactions

Speak directly to the child, rather than through a companion or sign language interpreter.

Always offer to shake hands when introduced and identify yourself.

Ask a child if he or she would like assistance before actually doing anything.

Treat a child like you would like to be treated.

Do not lean against or hang on someone's wheelchair or cart. Children with disabilities treat their chairs as extensions of their bodies.

Listen attentively to children who have difficulty speaking. Allow extra time and if you don't understand, ask for a simple clarification: Did you mean X? Did you want Y?

Place yourself at eye level when speaking with a child using a wheelchair, or crutches.

Tap a child who is deaf on the shoulder, or wave your hand to get his or her attention.

RELAX; don't be embarrassed if you happen to use common expressions that seem to relate to the child's disability. Use it as a learning opportunity for the next time.