



What's In A Name?

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Autism, cystic fibrosis, cerebral palsy, schizophrenia & many of the terms professionals use to describe different medical conditions are vaguely familiar to us. But the terms themselves are apt to carry little meaning; we experience people not labels. So unless we've known someone with one of these conditions, the label is apt to remain vague.

What's important to remember is that people with disabilities are first and foremost human beings. Each person is unique. As with able-bodied people, people with disabilities want to be accepted for who they are, not what they are.

Acceptance starts with the knowledge that we are not all born equal. Some of us have disabilities; some of us don't. But, what we do share is the same basic human needs to belong, to grow, to take risks and to succeed.

So, the next time you meet a person with a disability; focus on the person rather than the disability. Labels don't make a person; people do!

For more information, please contact the Clerk's Department by phone at 613-932-6252 or by e-mail at mpoirier@cornwall.ca.