Quick Disability Etiquette Tips

- People know what they can and cannot do. You should not assume a person with a disability needs help.

- Sometimes a person may want help. It’s always OK to ask. If they accept help, wait for their instructions.

- When you greet someone with a disability, greet them the same way you would anyone else.

- Speak to the person the way you would like to be spoken to. Talk directly to the person, not their caregiver or assistant.

- Be respectful. No one wants to be talked down to. Be as formal or as familiar with the person as you are with anyone else.

- People appreciate their privacy. Only ask if you may discuss a person’s disability if it is relevant to the conversation.

- Some people need extra time to gather their thoughts. Please be patient and let them set the pace.

- Service animals are working. You should not pet or try to distract a service animal.

- It’s OK to use common phrases such as: “See you later,” “Gotta run,” or “Did you hear about that?” Chances are the person with a disability will understand.