Let's Talk! About Stopping the "R" Word

Center for Persons With Disabilities

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The Let's Talk! weekly blog gives you a chance to let us know how you feel about the issues and concerns that affect the lives of people with disabilities and their families and to hear what others think.

This week’s topic is all about words..."the good, the bad, and the ugly" ones.

This month, Utah took a giant step forward when HB 230 was signed into law (May 9 2011). This law replaces the use of the words "mental retardation" with "intellectual disability" in all Utah State Code.

Changing the words used in federal language doesn't mean that people will immediately stop using words that are offensive to others, but it may get them to stop and think about what words they are using.

Tell us how you feel about the words you would like to hear when people refer to your child or someone that you know or work with.

What words do you use when you explain to someone else about your child or a child you are working with who has a disability?

What words would you like people to use when referring to people who have special challenges/conditions?

How can we get people to stop using the terms “mentally retarded” or “retard?”

Let us know of other topics that you would like to talk about on the Let’s Talk! blog.

(Note: All comments will be filtered to maintain confidentiality and appropriateness.)