

Class Notes: Sexuality & Disability **HES 3523**

Reminder: Monday, April 25, is the last day that written assignments and extra credits will be accepted. Thank you!

Today's Focus is on *Intellectual Disabilities*

Common Vocabulary: Developmental Disabilities – Cognitive Disabilities –
Intellectual Disabilities – Special Needs – Learning Disabilities

Ex. Autism

Inequities of the past:

- Institutionalization
 - o It was looked upon as the right thing to do if you loved your child with a disability back then
 - o Today's Viewpoint sees it as completely wrong

- Sterilization
 - o Mutilating someone to not being able to have offspring's
 - o Didn't stop until 1970s

***People-First Language**

- A person with a disability
 - o NOT a disabled person
- People with disabilities
 - o Not disabled people, NOR disability people
- A person with autism
 - o NOT an autistic person
- A person in a wheelchair
 - o NOT a quadriplegic

- Myths and stereotypes about the sexuality and sex lives of people with disabilities

One of the reasons that some people with developmental disabilities seem to fit with some of the stereotypes is because they seldom have the same opportunities to learn about sexuality and appropriate socio-sexual behaviors, and to practice those behaviors.

Imagine what it is like to be a part of our world, culture, and community without access to sexuality information or outlets for sexual expression ---

- no parents you can talk to
- not learning about it in school
- not having friends to talk about it
- not being able to read and comprehend what you see in books, magazines, or on the internet
- getting scolded for expressing common curiosity

Think about all the wonderful experiences in life would you want someone to learn about & experience in terms of their sexuality. Why would this wish be any different for people living with a disability?

The Goals of Sexual Learning

This is a list of some of the goals for sexuality education / access to information for people with disabilities – the reasons it is important. Some see each of these as a RIGHT.

- accurate information:**

