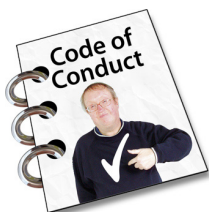




We want to be seen and heard!



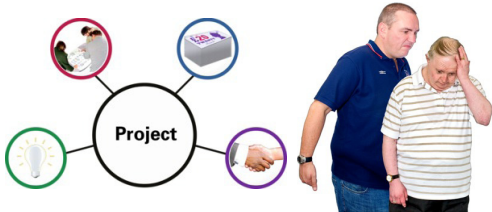
Tips for people who work in television, radio and other media about how they show people with learning disabilities.



**foundation for
people with
learning disabilities**



We want people to think about how people with learning disabilities are shown on radio and television programmes.



This came about from a piece of work we have done around hate crime, bullying and harassment towards people with learning disabilities.



We think people would understand us better and treat us better if we were shown in a more positive way on programmes.



This guide was written by the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities with the Voice and Community reference group.



The Reference Group

Pat Charlesworth
Richard Walker
Richard Lawrence
John Elliffe
Katy Bessent
Waren Day

Richard West
Robin Hill
Patrick Daintith
Michelle McDermot
Scott Watkins

1

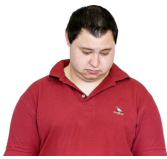
Stop Hello Eat
Words
Person Day Open

Mind your language



Stop Hello Eat
Words
Person Day Open

We always hear language such as **'moron'**, **'retard'**, and **'spastic'**, being used on television programmes.



This is very upsetting for people with learning disabilities to hear.

Stop Hello Eat
Words
Person Day Open



Words like 'idiot', 'spastic' 'moron' and 'imbecile' were medical terms used years ago to talk about people with learning disabilities. It is not ok for people to use these words.



Also, when talking about someone with a disability the interviewer or journalist often says the person is 'suffering' from their disability. Please say 'the person HAS a learning disability'.



We do not suffer from anything – we are not objects of pity. We are just like everyone else but happen to take a little bit longer to learn things.



Be positive when you talk about learning disabilities: don't assume it's a bad thing.

2



Show lots of different types of learning disabilities



Have people with different types of learning disabilities, on television or radio programmes.



It is great that there has been more people with learning disabilities in films, television and radio programmes, however it is often people with Down's syndrome in these programmes.



Only a very small number of people with learning disabilities have Down's syndrome.



Many people have no obvious physical feature(s) to tell them apart from other people. It would really help for the general public to see lots of different people with learning disabilities.

3



Have people with learning disabilities shown on lots of different programmes



People with learning disabilities should be included in a range of programmes such as Newsnight, The One Show, documentaries and other types of programmes.



People with learning disabilities are not very often interviewed on tv programmes and radio. They may need some support to help them prepare.



Show the people you are interviewing the questions before the interview and stick to them.



Make sure information that you give to someone with a learning disability is easy to understand. (See our A-Z section about making information 'Easy Read' on our website for more information).

4



Have people in long term roles and don't just focus on disability



Cast people with learning disabilities in long term roles and focus on things other than their disability.



The stories about people with learning disabilities featured in soap operas are often on a short-term basis.



The story about the child (Janet) with Down's syndrome in Eastenders was brilliant, but it would have been great if she carried on being in it, so people can see her grow up.



People with learning disabilities should have regular and long term roles that focus on their everyday lives - working, friends, relationships, just like everybody else.



Often characters are stereotypes and do not have storylines outside of their disability.

5



Involve people with learning disabilities



Involve people with learning disabilities as actors and as advisers to film, television and radio projects.



People with disabilities have a saying 'nothing about us without us'.



Non-disabled actors should **not** play learning disability parts in programmes.



This means that people with learning disabilities should be used as actors or be paid for their expertise and thoughts.



We know that advisers from charities have helped with some projects but people with a learning disability should be asked for their advice too. They should be used in a positive way to offer their advice.



This will help get real views from the people with learning disabilities themselves.



If you want someone with a learning disability to be in a programme or documentary, be honest about what the programme is going to be about and how they will be shown to the people watching.



Thank you for reading this.

Please get in touch with us if you want more information.

Find out more about this project and watch our video about this campaign on our website:
www.learningdisabilities.org.uk/hate-crime



Part of the



**Colechurch House
1 London Bridge Walk
London SE1 2SX
United Kingdom**

**Telephone
020 7803 1100**

**Email
fpld@learningdisabilities.org.uk
Website
www.learningdisabilities.org.uk**

**Registered Charity No.
England 801130
Scotland SC039714
Company Registration No. 2350846**

© Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities 2014

**changing
lives**