



DIGNITY & DISABILITY

Treating children with disabilities
with dignity and respect

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There are many things to consider when treating children with dignity and respect.

This series will highlight considerations and recommendations when working with children with disabilities to ensure you are providing them with the respect they deserve.

Let us know how you honor the dignity of your children with disabilities by commenting below or tagging us in your posts using [#BartonLabShares](#).

UNDERSTANDING DISABILITY

What is a disability?

A disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them (participation restrictions). (CDC)

What is a developmental delay?

Any of a variety of disabilities in infants and young children indicating that they are significantly behind the norm for development in one or more areas (ex: motor development, socialization, independent functioning, cognitive development, or communication)

What is "at risk" for a disability?

There is a high probability that the child will develop delays based on results from a screening assessment. This term should be carefully used for children who have scored in a certain range on a screening tool to ensure they receive appropriate follow-up testing and supports rather than based broadly on the child's environmental or biological characteristics.

A RIGHT TO DIGNITY

Educators and practitioners must respect the inherent dignity and worth of all children

All children should be included and supported to fully participate in their family routines, classrooms, and communities



A PHILOSOPHY TOWARDS DIGNITY

Children with disabilities do not need to be repaired or fixed. Just like all children, they need support to succeed.

All children are entitled to developmentally appropriate materials and exemplary classroom practices that honor each child's strengths and areas of development.

There are no one-size fits all practices for children, and we must work to understand the strengths and needs of each child and family.



RESOURCES

Disability and Health Overview
CDC

Working With Children With
Special Needs

IRIS Center: IEPs