



Diverse Abilities

It's fine for children to ask questions.

People having diverse abilities and limitations is a normal part of life. When a child asks questions, giving the child an open and clear answer helps the child to understand that different abilities are part of human diversity.

TIPS for PARENTS:

- Offer open and factual responses.
- The most important thing is to ensure the child learns that diverse abilities are just part of life and that you treat everyone with kindness and respect.
- Answer your child's questions honestly and positively.
- When your child points out different abilities and asks you about them, respond in a way that lets them know that talking about differences is not taboo. They feel genuinely curious, and they need to know that that's okay!
- Acknowledge and normalize the fact that we all have different abilities.
- Avoid words such as disability or special needs, which focus on deficits. Instead, use words such as diverse abilities or differences. The language we use is important!
- Avoid feeling sorry for children with differences, and instead focus on their value as unique individuals.