

# Who is Disabled?

Explain the definition of a disabled person under 2010 Equalities Act.



The Act says that “a person has a **disability** if they have a **physical or mental impairment** which has a **long term** and **substantial adverse effect** on their **ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities**”.

To judge if someone is disabled you have to ignore the effect of things like hearing aids, walking sticks, crutches, wheelchairs, white cane, medicines or help given by other people

Get the group to sit in a circle. In the middle place a circle of string/rope, about 1 metre wide.

Put the following onto cards and ask the group to place in the circle if likely to count as a disability. Children can place cards in or out of the circle.

1. Who's body finds it difficult to deal with sugar?
2. Uses a crutch / stick?
3. Finds it difficult to see words on a page?
4. Is sad for long periods of time?
5. Cannot walk?
6. Cannot speak?
7. Who's skin itches all the time?
8. Has a minor cut?
9. Has injured their leg?
10. Who's heart does not work very well?
11. Has curly hair?
12. Has blue eyes?
13. Has a cold?
14. Finds breathing difficult?
15. Is blind or partially sighted?
16. Finds it hard to make sense of the word on the page?
17. Finds learning difficult?
18. Is deaf or partially deaf?
19. Doesn't have part of their body?
20. Find it hard to concentrate?
21. Wears glasses?
22. Has cancer?
23. Lost their memory?
24. Has an eating disorder?

Numbers 8,9,11,12,13, 21 would not count. Substantial means more than minor or trivial and long term is taken as lasting 12 months or likely to last for 12 months.