



# PHYSICAL DISABILITIES



**Understanding Our Differences, Inc.**  
*The Leader in Disability Awareness Education*



# PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Part of the body:

- Functions differently
- Does not function at all
- Is missing or formed differently

# TEMPORARY PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

- Broken bones
- Torn ligaments
- Sprains

*Temporary  
physical disabilities  
go away  
when the injury heals.*





# PERMANENT PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Can happen in 3 ways: Birth, Illness or Injury

## Birth

A person may be born without all or part of his/her limbs or with a medical condition such as cerebral palsy or spina bifida.

## Illness

Some people have a physical disability as the result of serious illness that affects their body organs or ability to move or speak clearly.



# INJURY

- Automobile accidents
- Bicycle accidents
- Sports injuries
- Diving accidents
- Falls
- Burns
- War
- Guns

# PREVENTION

*Protect your body & brain by wearing seat belts and helmets*



# SPINAL CORD INJURY





# SPINAL CORD OR BRAIN INJURY

- Brain messages could get jumbled
- Muscles may not move in a coordinated way
- Speech may be difficult to understand





# INJURY TO THE BODY

- Permanent damage to arms or legs
- Loss of part or all of arms or legs
- Severe burns can cause loss of use of limbs



# BARRIERS

- Architectural
- Attitudinal

# HANDICAPS



Lack of accessible transportation



A step instead of a ramp



People's attitudes

# FEELINGS AND FRIENDSHIP

- Are you uncomfortable, shy or curious, but don't want to stare?
- Do you want to avoid people with physical disabilities?
- How can you be a friend and an ally?

