

Respect

“A community where disability is a distinction without a difference” The Arc of San Francisco’s Vision

For Everyone to Know

In the 2009 Client Survey, Arc clients said they feel respected by other clients most of the time (59%) They feel respected by the people they live with most of the time (71%) and Arc clients said they feel respected by staff most of the time (72%).

There is still social stigma attached to having a disability. Clients have rallied to defend their rights and educate the public when a movie was offensive, and when proposed Muni increases were unfair.

The Arc’s mission includes dignity for people with disabilities. Dignity is **self-respect**.

For Clients to Do

Respect yourself, treat others the way you wish they treated you

Respect how we are different and accept others’ choice in friends and partners

Practice good manners and being polite

Have a heart to heart with someone if you have issues with them. Walk away from someone when you can’t resolve your issue and ask someone you trust for help.

For Staff to Do

Help clients understand the concept of reciprocity – you should respect your clients, your clients should respect you...one is impossible without the other

Be sure your client understands that other people matter – that how he/she acts affects how other people treat him/her, help clients to set clear boundaries with others

Remember that respect is a social skill that can be taught and learned, be mindful that many people with disabilities are conditioned to obey anyone they think has power and authority

Coach clients on respectful communication – saying “please” or “excuse me”

Model polite body language – not pushing, not kicking, not staring, taking turns, letting others go first, looking people in the eyes, listening patiently, not interrupting

Earth Day is April 22nd: Teach respect for the environment by sharing concepts of conservation, climate change, recycling, energy efficiency and pollution