



## **Shuktara's language**

When writing or talking about shuktara and the children and young people we care for, we use the following principles. Here are the reasons for these:

### **'People with disabilities' rather than 'disabled people'**

Although the social model of disability advocates using the term 'disabled people', (because people are disabled by society and social barriers), this is not how the residents of shuktara wish to be referred to. They prefer 'people with disabilities', (putting the person before the disability) and it is important that we respect this choice in all our materials, because they are at the very heart of our work.

### **Using 'deaf' rather than 'Deaf'**

Deaf is often written with a capital D to recognise the culture behind the disability, as it has its own language. However, to capitalise the 'd' implies a hierarchy of importance; with impairments like learning disabilities and cerebral palsy being less important.

### **Not using 'Deaf and disabled'**

Many members of the D/deaf community use the term 'Deaf or disabled' because they do not believe deafness should be perceived as a disability, and should therefore be referred to separately. However, at shuktara we do not categorise deafness as being separate from 'disability', because it implies that disability is something negative, and in some way 'worse' than being deaf. Everyone at shuktara has an impairment, and we treat all of them equally and with respect.

### **Quote from our founder, David**

"For us, as with any parent/guardian, they are simply our children. We do not think of them in terms of what impairment they have. We brought them up, and love them all unconditionally."