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Preparing Individuals with Disabilities to Interact with Police Officers, Fire Fighters, and other First Responders



April 6, 2024
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Agenda



- 1 Introductions
- 2 Why are we here
- 3 Who is a first responder
- 4 Four-step approach
- 5 Role-play scenarios

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What is the purpose of this session?

This session aims to inform participants with a four-step approach crafted to enhance their readiness and promote positive interactions with police officers, fire fighters, and other first responders. Attendees will not only grasp these steps but also engage in practical exercises through role-playing scenarios.



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Who is a first responder?



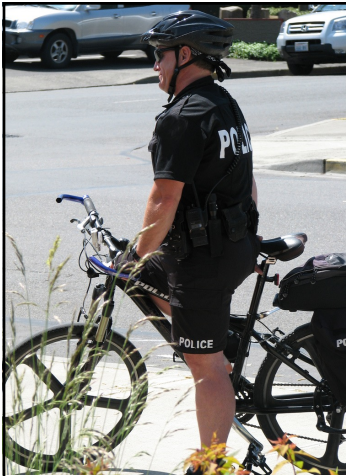
First responders are the initial individuals who arrive to the scene of an emergency and are comprised of emergency medical technicians (EMTs), firefighters, and law enforcement officers (LEOs).

During emergency and non-emergency situations the responsibility of a first responder is to ensure the protection, safety, and emergency treatment of all individuals who require assistance during various situations.

(Diamond & Hogue, 2022)



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POLICE OFFICER



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FIRE FIGHTER



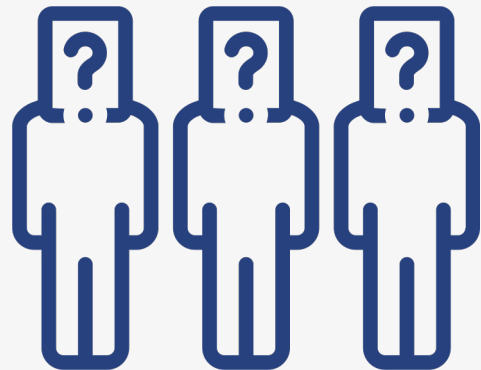
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EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)

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**Often times
parents, guardians,
caregivers, or
individuals seek
the support of first
responders for
various reasons...**



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Reasons may include:

- **Behavioral support**
- **Elopement**
- **Health needs**



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We need first responders but...

Caregivers have concerns regarding potential interactions with first responders, specifically, police (Diamond & Hogue, 2021).

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How do we increase positive interaction with first responders?



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How do we increase positive interaction with first responders?

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Training first responders on how to have safe interactions with people with disabilities.

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How do we increase positive interaction with first responders?

2

Training support networks to facilitate safe interactions between people with disabilities and first responders.



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How do we increase positive interaction with first responders?

3

Training individuals with disabilities on how to interact with first responders.



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How can we be prepared?

- **Self-identification**
- **Knowledge of first responders**
- **4-steps to interacting with first responders**

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Self-Identification

Name

Address

Contact number

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Understanding first responders & their roles.

Law Enforcement Officer (LEO)

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

Firefighter

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4-Steps

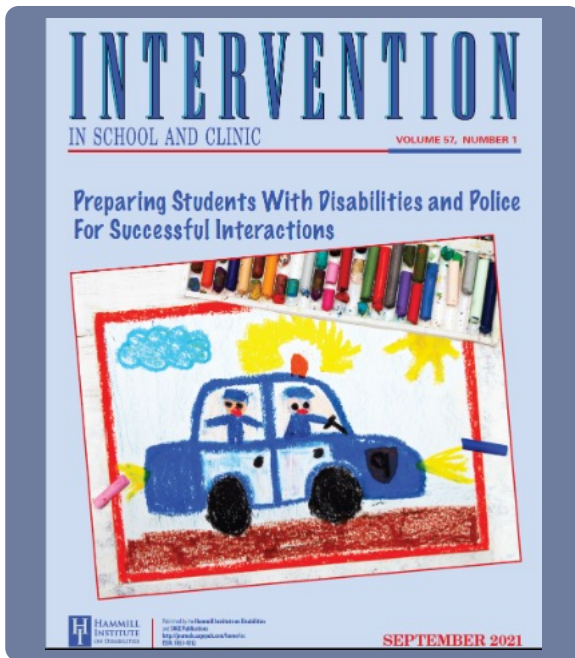
Stop

Look

Listen

Speak

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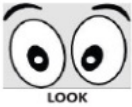


Visual Support	Tips for How to Respond Appropriately
 STOP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop moving when you hear the police officer's voice. • Keep your hands out of your pockets and free of materials. • Avoid using hand gestures.
 LOOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look up when you hear the police officer. • Slowly turn toward the direction of the police officer's voice. • Keep your eyes on the police officer.
 LISTEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the words of the police officer. • Listen to the prompt/question/command from the police officer before responding. • Continue to listen to all the directions of the police officer.
 RESPOND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to the questions asked by the police officer. • Respond without using expletives. • Respond in a calm and clear voice.

Figure 2. Visual support for responding to a police officer command. (Pixabay open clipart license: Free for commercial use without attribution.)

(Diamond & Hogue, 2021b)

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STEP 1

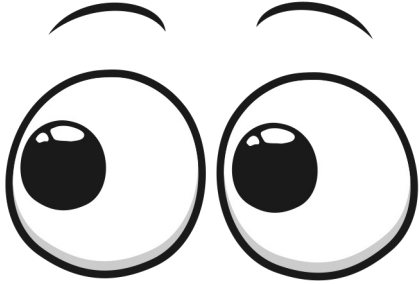
- Stop moving when you hear the first responder's voice.
- Keep your hands out of your pocket and free of materials.
- Avoid using hand gestures.



STOP

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STEP 2



LOOK

- Look up when you hear the first responder.
- Slowly turn around in the direction of the first responder's voice.
- Keep your eyes on the first responder.

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STEP 3

- Focus on the words of the first responder.
- Listen to the prompt/question/command from the first responder before responding.
- Continue to listen to all of the directions of the first responder.



LISTEN

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RESPOND

STEP 4

- Respond to the questions asked by the first responder.
- Respond without using expletives.
- Respond in a calm and clear voice.

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Questions

WRAP UP

Thank you!

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