

PERSON FIRST LANGUAGE

Rather than using labels to define individuals, person first language (PFL) puts the person before the condition or trait. PFL is about respect and dignity and focuses on the person, not the label.

SAY:



A person with a disability



He is a person with an intellectual disability



Maria is a student with autism



Thomas has Down syndrome



She has a learning disability



Jade receives special education services



He has an emotional or behavioral disability



Lee has developmental delays



She rides in an accessible bus



He has ADHD

INSTEAD OF:



A special needs child



He is slow



The Autistic girl



Thomas is Downs



She is LD or learning disabled



Jade is ESE or in special ed



That ED/BD kid



Lee is developmentally delayed



She rides the handicap bus



He is ADHD

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Disabilities

Try not to always focus on the person's disability. Talk about the person's strength. Instead of focusing on disabilities, talk about their abilities.