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 EBD kid
- Lee is developmentally delayed
- She rides the handicap bus
- He is ADHD

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