

# Learning Launches: Growth Results from Experimental Learning

## TheCaseSolutions.com

### Importance of using People First Language

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- People with disabilities constitute our nation's largest and most inclusive minority group.
- all ages, genders, religions, ethnicities, sexual orientations and socioeconomic levels are represented
  - anyone can join at anytime: at birth, after an accident, illness, or through the aging process

### Importance of using People First Language

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- Words, and the meanings attached to them have the following effects:
- attitudes and images we have of people
  - drives social policies and laws
  - influence feelings and decisions
  - reinforces prejudice and discrimination of a particular group of people

### What is people first language?

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- People first language is language that communicates information about a person, not their disability
- By emphasizing the person, and all their strengths and qualities prior to their disability, we emphasize that we are people before anything else.
  - Example: A student with Autism, rather than an Autistic student.

### Ways to use People First Language

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- Reframe our use of problems, into needs.
- Instead of:
  - He has behavior problems
  - She has reading problems
  - He is learning disabled
  - She is a Special Ed kid
- Use:
  - He needs behavior supports
  - She needs large print
  - He has a learning disability
  - She receives special education services

### Practice Time Teachers: Think about your students

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- Think of the student's in your classroom. Write out a short description, using people first language.
- Example: Jessica is a happy, hard-working girl. She loves learning about animals. Jessie has Down Syndrome.

### Practice Time Students: How can you use People First Language?

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- Always talk directly to a person with a disability and not around them.
- Think about the impact your words will have. If you don't believe what you will say will make someone feel respected or good, DON'T say it.
- Remember, we are all people FIRST... even you!

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## *Practice Time*

*Teachers: Think about your students*

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Think of the student's in your classroom. Write out a short description, using people first language.

- **Example:** Jessie is a happy, hard-working girl. She loves learning about animals. Jessie has Down Syndrome.

## *Practice Time*

*Students: How can you use People First Language?*

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