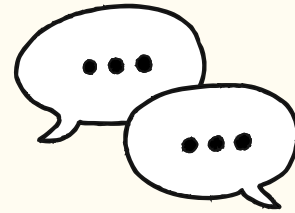


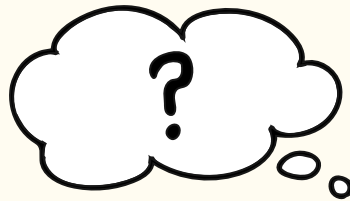
# LANGUAGE GUIDE



## PURPOSE:

This guide is designed to support educators in recognizing and responding to sensory processing differences, particularly in autistic students, through inclusive and empathetic communication.

In the following pages, you'll find a practical language guide tailored to help teachers communicate effectively and compassionately with neurodivergent learners. This resource is part of a broader initiative to foster inclusive learning environments.



## WHO IS THIS FOR:

- ★ Teachers and educators
- ★ School support staff
- ★ Parents and caregivers
- ★ Peers and other students

## HOW TO USE GUIDE:

Use this guide as a reference during lesson planning, classroom interactions, and team discussions. It's designed to be practical, accessible, and adaptable to various educational settings.

## NOTE:

THIS GUIDE IS DESIGNED TO BE PRINTED ON A1 PAPER FOR OPTIMAL READABILITY AND PRESENTATION.





# LANGUAGE GUIDE:

## HOW TO TALK ABOUT AUTISM

The words we use matter. Choosing respectful, accurate language helps everyone feel seen and valued. Here are some ways to talk about autism that promote understanding and inclusion.

### INSTEAD OF...

- ☒ Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- ☒ Person-first language (e.g. person with autism)
- ☒ Autism symptoms and impairments
- ☒ At risk of autism
- ☒ Co-morbidity
- ☒ Functioning labels (e.g. high/low functioning)
- ☒ Cure, treatment, or intervention

### TRY THIS...

- ☒ Autism, autistic
- ☒ Identity-first language (e.g. autistic person)
- ☒ Specific autistic experiences & characteristics
- ☒ May be autistic; increased likelihood of being autistic
- ☒ Co-occurring
- ☒ Specific support needs
- ☒ Specific support or service

