

My Child Activity

What you need to run the activity

- Power point slides
- Projector/laptop to display slides

Note: This activity works really well using PowerPoint as the activity slide (attached) is setup to reveal each statement in turn but you could obviously do the same exercise by writing it up on a white board/flip chart.

Aim of the activity

- To encourage parents to think about how we use different language around our child's needs;
- To be able to understand when this can be a barrier or when it can be an enabler.

How to run the activity

- Show the blank slide as attached, using the forward button to reveal just one statement at a time so you can show a statement in the disabled child column, ask participants what they think will come up next and then display the non-disabled statement, at whatever pace fits your discussions and your group;
- Once this is completed, then lead a wider discussion using the second slide.

Key learning points

Some points you may want to draw out and ask your group to come up with examples of, could include:

- How 'professional' language and terminology can have its uses such as when discussing a child's needs with health or other professionals during an assessment or multi-agency meeting or when filling out a DLA form;
- But equally how this use of language could alienate other parents or family members not from 'our' world of SEN and Disability; or the impact it can have on a child or young person's self-esteem as may concentrate more on their needs or diagnosis and the provision they need not who they really are.

Interactive activity slide

My disabled child

Has a placement
Uses special transport
Accesses a mainstream activity
Is in transition
Has annual reviews
Has siblings
Requires intervention
Has peers

My non disabled child

Goes to school
Gets the bus
Goes swimming
Is moving up to college
Has parent's evenings
Has brothers and sisters
Requires help and support
Has friends



Discussion/Summary slide

Points to Consider

How can the language we use serve as:

- A barrier to people's understanding of your child?
- An enabler to get the support your child requires?

