

People-First Language Pledge

Let's remember that the words we choose and the structure in which we use them MATTER! Individuals with disabilities are often misrepresented and disrespected by people using improper words and language.

People-first language is crucial to use because the order of a phrase can carry implications as to which part of the phrase is most important. People-first language helps emphasize that the individual is a person, FIRST, and is not defined by their disability.

PEOPLE-FIRST LANGUAGE:

individual with disabilities
child with autism
adult with intellectual disabilities
student who receives special education services

INSTEAD OF:

disabled person
autistic child
mentally retarded adult
special ed student

I hereby pledge to make changes in the way I think, talk and write and will use people-first language in order to recognize that individuals are not defined by their disability.

I also pledge to stop using the R-Word (retard) and similar slang language that is disrespectful, derogatory and hurtful.

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____



Little City engages and supports individuals, families and communities to ensure that children and adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities can realize their unique potential to live safely, learn continuously, explore creatively and work productively throughout their lifetimes.

Visit littlecit.org for more information on how to support and advocate for individuals with disabilities.