

# Our Words Matter

Instead of...



Red flags or symptoms

Restricted or Repetitive Behaviors & Interests

High-functioning or Low-functioning

Non-verbal

Treatment or intervention

Special needs

Deficits

Use...



Characteristics or traits

Special or focused interests; Self-regulating behaviors

Specific strengths and support needs

Non-speaking, uses multimodal communication

Specific support or service

Disabled, disability

Differences