

NEURODIVERSITY AFFIRMING LANGUAGE

Instead of:

Use:

High/low functioning

An individual with varying/fluctuating needs
Needs the following supports to successfully

Diagnosed with Autism/ASD

Autistic person

Non-verbal*

Non-speaking

Perseveration

Monotropic interest system/info-
dump/monologue

Rigid, inflexible, inability to
cope with change, struggle
with transition

Monotropism

Fixations

Focused interests, passions

Repetitive behaviour

Stimming

Repetitive play, struggles with
cooperative/imaginative play
lack of interest playing with
peers

Autistic play

*According to the autistic community, an individual who is non-verbal does NOT have any means (including non-verbal communication) to communicate. If a child understands words but is not using any spoken/mouth words, he/she is considered to be non-speaking



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Instead of:

Rude/blunt

Inappropriate attempts at playing with others which may appear aggressive/disruptive

Social difficulties, lack of empathy, unable to adjust communication style

Tantrums

Symptoms of ASD

Use:

Direct style of communication
Truthful

Differences in neurotypical joint attention and play

Diversity in social intelligence
Autistic style of social communication

Meltdowns due to sensory overload/communication breakdowns

Characteristics of the autistic neurotype