

**Tool VII-B
People First Language**

PDP terminology has changed to focus on people rather than their disabilities. The following charts show how new terms have replaced dated language.

New PDP Terms	Old Annual Staffing Terms
Person (Mr. Jones, Ms. Smith)	Individual, client, consumer
Personal Support Plan	Personal Life Plan (Individual Program Plan, staffing)
Personal Support Plan Addendum	Personal Life Plan Addendum (mini-team)
Personal Support Team	Interdisciplinary Team
Personal Focus Worksheet-new	Personal Life Assessment; Home Support Input Summary
Behavior Support Plan	Behavior Intervention Program (B-mod Program)
Training Objective	Skill (training goal, objective)
Service Objective	Service Plan
Rights Assessment	Individual Rights Assessment

Other New PDP Terms
Risk Screening Tool
Risk Tracking Record
Action Plan — encompasses several types of supports
Communications Dictionary
Learning Log

Language choices can be significant to the people and families we serve. Language has the power to affect how people perceive themselves and how they are viewed by others. Use these terms when speaking with or about people with disabilities and be sensitive to their needs.

People First and Other Respectful Language	
New Term	Old Term
Person who has a developmental disability or person who has a cognitive disability	MR, the retarded, handicapped, disabled, has a birth defect
Person who uses a wheelchair for mobility	Wheelchair bound, a wheelchair
Person who ambulates	Walker
Person who walks with a crutch	Cripple
Person who engages in _____ behavior	Runner, digger, smearer, behavior
Person needs behavior supports. She uses a wheelchair/mobility chair.	She has a problem with/has special needs
Person receives nutrition via feeding tube	Tuber, g-tube
Home	Dorm
Living room	Dayroom
Live in/at a home	Live on a home
Incontinence brief	Diaper
Person communicates with his eyes/device/etc.	He is non-verbal
Person has autism, has a diagnosis of autism	She's autistic

People First and Other Respectful Language	
New Term	Old Term
Person has a diagnosis of Down syndrome	He has Down's, is a Down's kid
Person with mental illness	Mentally ill, emotionally disturbed
Person who has an emotional disability	Insane, crazy, demented, psycho
Person with a psychiatric illness/disability	Maniac, lunatic
Person who is deaf	The deaf
Person with a hearing loss, hard of hearing	Person is hearing impaired
Person who is deaf and cannot speak	She is deaf and dumb
Person who is deaf-blind	He is deaf and blind
Person who is deaf with low vision	She is deaf, dumb and blind
Person who has epilepsy, has a seizure disorder	An epileptic, a victim of epilepsy
Person who has quadriplegia	A quadriplegic
People with paraplegia	The paraplegic
Person is of small or short stature	A dwarf or midget
People without disabilities	Normal people
Seniors, older individuals/persons/adults	Old people, senior citizens, old men or women
Accessible buses, bathrooms, etc.	Handicapped buses, bathrooms, etc.
Reserved parking for people with disabilities	Handicapped parking
Nursing facility	Nursing home