

Language that Cares

Thoughtful words help children feel seen, heard and supported



1. Move away from blaming language

Write reports as if you were writing to the child

Context: Sam struggles to focus for a whole lesson and can become agitated and walk out.

✓ **Caring, collaborative wording**

“Hi Sam, I was really pleased that you managed to stay in class for longer today. How do you think I can help you stay for the whole lesson? Let’s talk about this together.”

✗ **Blaming wording to avoid**

“Sam was disruptive in the lesson today, walking out towards the end of the lesson.”

2. Helpful reminders

📖 **Use the glossary:** Refer to the *Language that Cares A–Z Glossary*.

✍️ **Pause before writing:** Think carefully about how your words may be received.

💬 **Choose words with care:** Move away from using the word “siblings”.

👂 **Ask the child:** Check which words they prefer. Some children are comfortable with “placement” or “contact”; others prefer different terms, such as “family time”.