



Children's TLC
THERAPEUTIC LEARNING CENTER

*Helping children soar
in today's world.*

#LABELMEABLE

is a campaign to encourage person-first language. Language affects attitudes and attitudes affect action. We can create a more accepting community by adopting person-first language.

Have you ever heard the terms “autistic kid” or “Downs child” or “special needs girl?” At Children's TLC, the metro's only therapeutic learning center for young children with special needs, we sure have. And the 295 children who benefit from our leading approach have as well - and it stings. Because these children aren't defined by their diagnoses. In fact, they'll be the first to tell you that the best label for them is ABLE.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT!



What is person-first language?

Person first language is an alternative way to talk about a child's special needs that places the focus on the person. It emphasizes the individual rather than the diagnosis. For example, instead of referring to a "Down syndrome child," person-first language would be "a child with Down syndrome." The intent is to emphasize the things we all have in common rather than differences, and to allow the many things that are special about our children to shine through.

Terms to avoid:

He's autistic; autistic children
He's a Down's child
She's developmentally delayed

Terms to use:

He has autism
He has Down syndrome
She has a developmental delay

A disability descriptor is simply a medical diagnosis. Person-first language respectfully puts the person before the disability.

Taking Action is Easy!

1. Share on social media: Sample Tweet: "I've adopted person-first language because words matter. A child is more than a diagnosis. #LabelMeAble"

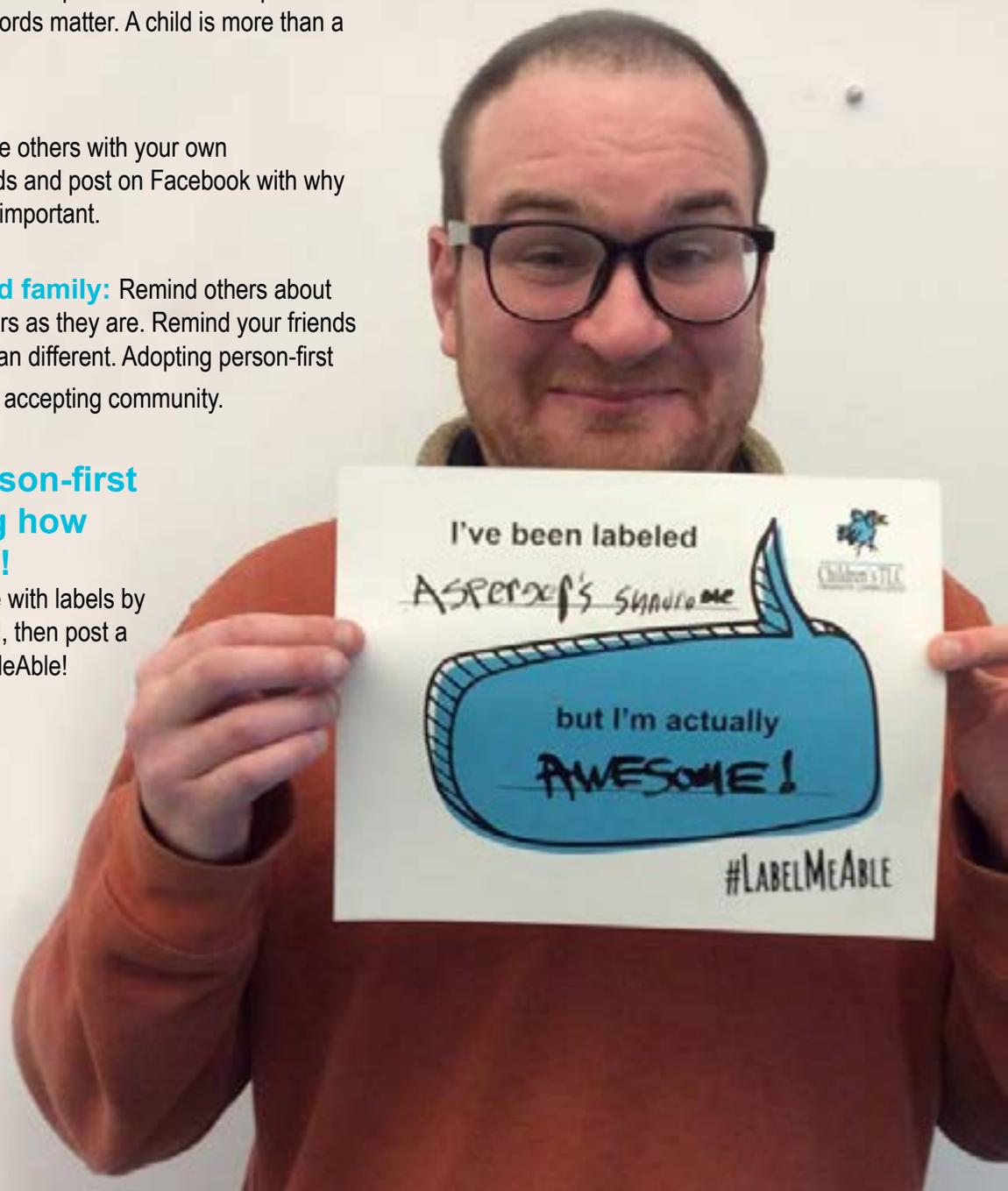
2. Share your story: Inspire others with your own experiences. Talk with your friends and post on Facebook with why you feel person-first language is important.

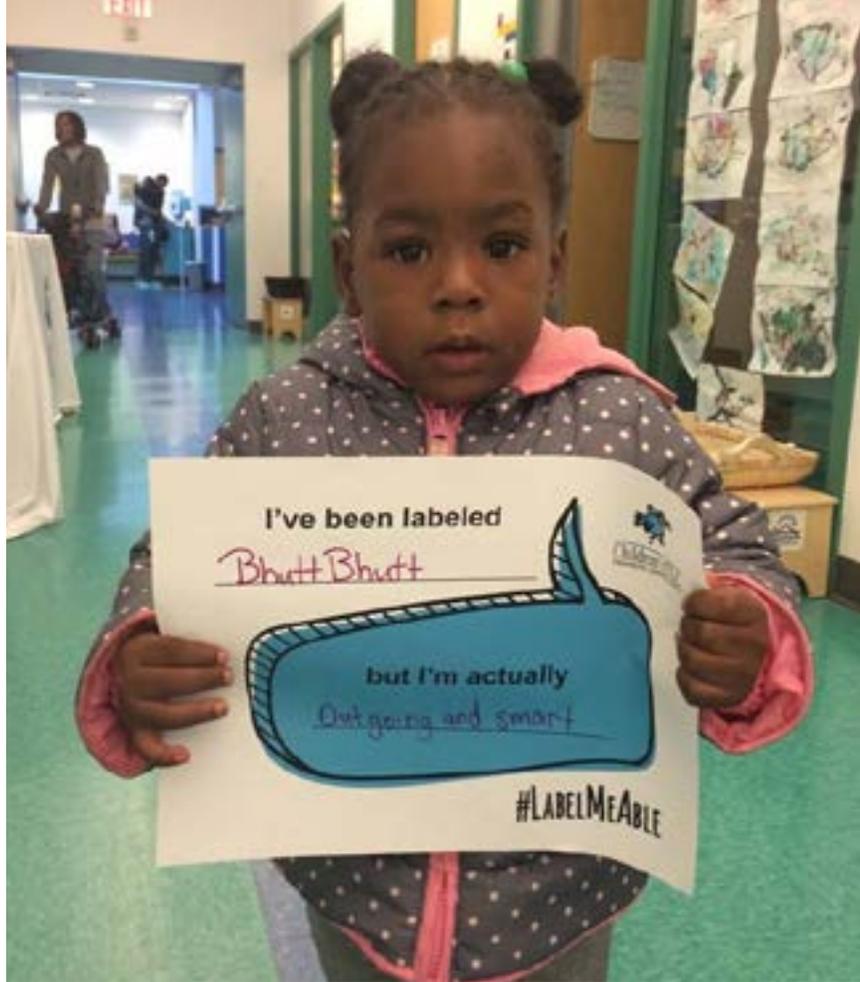
3. Talk to your friends and family: Remind others about the importance of accepting others as they are. Remind your friends that we're all much more alike than different. Adopting person-first language will help create a more accepting community.

4. Pledge to use person-first language by sharing how you've been labeled!

Help us debunk myths that come with labels by sharing how you've been labeled, then post a selfie using the hashtag #LabelMeAble!

SEE WHO HAS JOINED
THE MOVEMENT!





NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!

Print the sign on the next page to share how you've been labeled or email your photo to ssheldon@childrenstlc.org. You may see your photo on our Children's TLC Facebook page, Instagram account or Twitter account.

THANK YOU

for standing up for children with special needs by pledging to adopt person-first language.



I've been labeled



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but I'm actually

#LABELMEABLE