

Identity First vs Person First Language for Autism | Jenni Chapman YouTube Transcript

0:00

you say oh I'm autistic you're like oh

0:02

she is a person with autism

0:04

I don't know what voice that was I guess

0:06

that was my doctor voice

0:10

[Music]

0:15

hey, it's jenny welcome to my channel

0:18

today we're going to talk about the

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difference between

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person first language and identity first

0:22

language when it comes to the autism

0:24

community

0:25

now you're probably like what is that so

0:27

let's break down the terms first before

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we jump in so person first language is

0:31

like saying

0:31

a person with autism a man with autism

0:34

she has autism

0:36

it's treating the person as separate

0:37

from their autism

0:39

and saying that they are a person first

0:41

before they are autistic

0:43

now you'll find this very common in the

0:45

medical community so

0:46

they tend to treat every sort of

0:49

thing that you might have as a separate

0:52

thing from you

0:53

like you wouldn't say oh yes, my

0:56

you know such and such relative is a

0:58

cancerous person it's like well

1:00

no, she has cancer that's separate from

1:02

her you wouldn't say

1:03

oh you know my partner is is a flu

1:06

ridden person

1:08

you would say they have the flu the

1:10

person with the flu

1:11

it's separate because it doesn't define

1:13

who you are

1:14

in your life then you have identity

1:16

first language which is like

1:18

saying I am autistic um

1:21

autistic people autistic men women

1:24

children you lump together their autism

1:27

and who they are as a person

1:28

into one thing they are autistic now a

1:31

lot of

1:32

neurotypical people specifically those

1:34

in the medical professions will be like

1:36

oh, you know but you you're not your

1:38

autism like you

1:40

have it but it's not who you are but the

1:43

fact is

1:44

the vast majority of autistic people

1:47

prefer identity first language autism

1:50

isn't something we have

1:52

or suffer with it's not an illness it's

1:55

literally the lens through which we

1:57

experience and see everything

2:00

so, to us our identity and our autism are

2:03

forever connected

2:04

now of course that's not to say that

2:05

every autistic person prefers identity

2:08

first language every autistic person is

2:10

different

2:10

and has their own preferences so it's

2:12

always best to check just in case

2:14

for example I don't really care either

2:17

way I will use

2:18

both I've used both in my videos of

2:21

course if I'm talking about someone

2:22

specific I will check with them but when

2:24

I'm speaking generally

2:26

I'm just as likely to say autistic

2:27

people as I am to say people with autism

2:30

mostly for the sake

2:31

of switching up the language the issue

2:34

for me

2:34

comes if and when a neurotypical person

2:37

corrects me and says oh no no it's

2:40

person first language please which

2:44

is literally a thing that happens people

2:46

literally do this

2:47

assume that what the autistic person

2:49

uses as their choice of language

2:51

is correct for them it's like pronouns

2:55

kind of

2:55

if someone corrects you or introduces

2:57

themselves with certain pronouns

2:59

don't question it don't correct them

3:02

they're going to use the language they

3:03

want

3:04

used when it comes to them and their

3:06

identity

3:07

and of course language changes over time

3:09

so, who knows what the argument will be

3:11

in five or ten years

3:13

so bottom line basically if you don't

3:14

want to be offensive which I

3:16

assume you don't I would use identity

3:18

first language which again

3:20

is autistic person I am autistic

3:23

she is autistic and that way you're most

3:27

likely not gonna offend anyone and of

3:29

course if someone does correct you just

3:31

say oh thank you and make the change

3:33

you don't need to go into a hole oh my

3:35

god it's just so hard

3:37

it's so confusing I'm so sorry I'm

3:39

trying really hard like don't

3:42

don't just make the change move on

3:45

it's not a huge deal anyway I hope this

3:48

helped

3:49

thanks so much for watching that's all

3:50

for now and I'll see you soon

4:01

[Music]

4:14

you