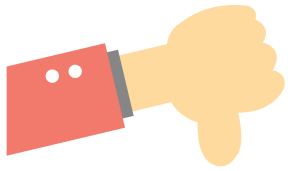


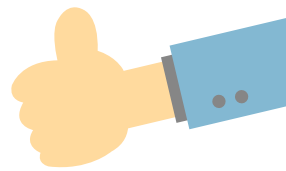
# Reframing Weaknesses as Strengths and Needs

(Try this at your next IEP meeting!)



Instead of these weakness statements...

"James is low functioning."



...try these strength statements

"James has good daily living skills (dressing, eating)."



...and these needs statements

"James needs systematic instruction and accommodations to learn the core curriculum."

"Ali is nonverbal."



"Ali uses facial expressions to communicate."



"Ali needs systematic instruction and access to assistive technology to expand her communication skills."

"Miguel is a nonreader."



"Miguel listens to stories read by others."



"Miguel needs systematic reading instruction, beginning with pictures."

"Nate has behavior problems."



"Nate is assertive and able to advocate for himself."



"Nate needs to be taught social skills by using social stories that provide various situations and appropriate social responses."

"Jia does not follow directions."



"Jia is an independent thinker and has a good sense of what she wants."



"Jia needs to learn to follow those directions that are essential for quality of life."

Adapted from *Believe in My Child with Special Needs!* by Mary A. Falvey  
[www.brookespublishing.com](http://www.brookespublishing.com) | 1-800-638-3775

