Instead of these weakness statements...

- “James is low functioning.”
- “Ali is nonverbal.”
- “Miguel is a nonreader.”
- “Nate has behavior problems.”
- “Jia does not follow directions.”

...try these strength statements

- “James has good daily living skills (dressing, eating).”
- “Ali uses facial expressions to communicate.”
- “Miguel listens to stories read by others.”
- “Nate is assertive and able to advocate for himself.”
- “Jia is an independent thinker and has a good sense of what she wants.”

...and these needs statements

- “James needs systematic instruction and accommodations to learn the core curriculum.”
- “Ali needs systematic instruction and access to assistive technology to expand her communication skills.”
- “Miguel needs systematic reading instruction, beginning with pictures.”
- “Nate needs to be taught social skills by using social stories that provide various situations and appropriate social responses.”
- “Jia needs to learn to follow those directions that are essential for quality of life.”

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