

Deficit vs. Asset Language Word Sort Cards

Cut out the cards on this page and the next. You will only need one set per pair/team. Once they are cut out, sort the cards into three categories: Asset language, deficit language, or neutral. After you are done sorting, discuss with your team on the placement of each card. Discuss any differences in view points.



“Lack of structure at home”	“The student needs my support in finding appropriate outlets for frustration.”	“no parental support”
“This student isn’t being challenged enough.”	“Her parents never taught her how to behave.”	“The student is bored so she’s acting out all the time.”
“Let’s practice it a different way.”	“She’s one of my Frequent Flyers.”	“He’s just low.”
“These kids come from a culture of violence. They don’t know any better.”	“They need to work harder.”	“Try again. You’ll get it.”
“Let’s try it again, together.”	“You really took a risk with trying that problem.”	“Perhaps there is an underlying cause I don’t know about yet.”
“learning disability”	“The student is seeking attention because they are not getting attention at home.”	“She could benefit from more intensive social/emotional skill instruction at school.”

**In case no one has
told you this today:**

**You are worthy.
You are an amazing
teacher.
You are changing lives.
You are doing a great
job.**

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“The parents don’t value education.”	“He needs more positive relationships and positive reinforcement at school.”	“absent father”
“I need to modify my instructional techniques or the curriculum.”	“spoiled at home”	“You really put a lot of effort into this project.”
“chaotic household”	“The classroom environment is too unstructured for his needs and he may benefit from a more structured routine.”	“at risk”
“Limited English Proficient”	“Let me help you try again.”	Emergent Bilingual Students
“at promise”	“experiencing a challenge memorizing with multiplication facts”	“I believe in you.”
“He has not mastered that skill yet.”	“This content is way over his head.”	“I’ve taught it for weeks and they just don’t get it.”
“Is this your very best work?”	“That’s okay, I’m not a math person either.”	“I need to look at this situation with a different perspective.”

Teaching is

TOUGH

but so are you