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The power of words: respectful language in ADHD research

Greater social awareness of ADHD is stimulating a much-needed shift towards the use of compassionate and respectful language. This has positive impact on individuals with lived experience of ADHD. It strengthens our clinical practice and research outcomes. The language we use affects and shapes our understanding of the difficulties people face and the paradigms in which researchers and clinicians operate.



Disorder or
condition?

Deficits or
challenges?

Abnormal or
neurodivergent?

Illness or
difference?

Disease or
traits?



Read the **ADHD language report** online

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Source: French, B., Dekkers, T. J., Barclay, I., Black, M. H., Bölte, S., Daley, D., ...& Martin, J. (2025).
The power of words: respectful language in ADHD research. *Lancet Psychiatry*.

