

Terms and Jargon

The world of education, and particularly special education, is filled with terms and jargon that are confusing to all of us outside the system. It is easy for teachers and professionals to forget that they are using acronyms and terms that may not be understood. If you do not understand something that your child's teacher or service provider is talking about, please speak up and ask them to explain it.

We know it can be hard to stop the conversation to ask for clarification. Here are a few ideas of what you might say to help get your child's teacher to pause and explain what they are talking about.

"Just a moment, that is a new term for me. What does _____ mean?"

"I'm sorry to interrupt, but I'm new to all of this. Can you explain what you mean by _____?"

"I did not understand the term you just used, what does _____ mean?"

"Before we go on, can you describe that again for me? I want to be sure that I understand."

"Excuse me, but the school lingo is a bit confusing. Can you explain that again?"