



Advocacy notes to guide your school meetings

Hello everyone,

My name is _____ and I am a parent of _____
who is now ___ years old.

As you can see in your documents, ___ is diagnosed with _____.

Before I start explaining ___ challenges and needs caused by his diagnosis, let me tell you first how wonderful ___ is using my documents! Let me tell you about _____ abilities.

At this time I will use a strengths-based approach, applying the 'F-Words' for Child Development. These are grounded in the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (the ICF). 'F-Words' for Child Development are described in a published paper written by CanChild's Drs. Rosenbaum and Gorter, titled: "The 'F-words' in Childhood Disability: I swear this is how we should think!" These six F-words, that the authors state should be the focus in all discussions about childhood disability, are: *Functioning, Family, Fitness, Fun, Friends, and Future*.

Here are some documents that will help me highlight _____ abilities:

- **The F-Words Agreement** – This is a document that represents an informal but serious pact between _____ and whoever ___ relies on for support.
- **The F-Words Collage** – This is a collage that provides a snap shot of my child. I would love to tell you why these pictures are meaningful.
- **The F-Words Profile** – Please keep this in _____ file. This document can tell you a lot about _____ and ___ favorite things.
- **The F-Words Goal Sheet** – These are our goals for school. Please help us try to organize _____ day so we can achieve them.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about _____ and what is important to ___ and to our family.