

Rainbow District School Board

Dealing Directly with Language

D

Direct

Address the disrespectful comment

I

Identify

Be specific about the impact of the words

R

Restate

Reinforce the use of appropriate language

E

Educate

Explain who is being hurt by the comment

C

Communicate

Emphasize the use of appropriate language

T

Thank

Act as a role model
and say thank you for listening

Approach and Possible Actions

Direct

Address the disrespectful language.

Consider phrases such as, "Let's talk about what I just heard you say" or "That is not okay."

Equity and
Inclusive
Education

Identify

Be specific about the impact of the words. If you hear a student say something like, "You talk funny because you're from another country," identify for them that the language is hurtful. Whenever a comment defines someone by an ability, we need to rethink our language. Instead of saying "a special needs student," say "a student with special needs."

Restate

Reinforce the use of appropriate language. Explain that the language we use to talk with one another must reflect the belief that everyone is equal.

Educate

Explain who is being hurt by the comment. For example, when we use phrases like "drama queen," "man up," or tell a boy that they, "throw like a girl," it can be hurtful and reinforce harmful stereotypes. Learning why words and phrases are offensive helps us be kind and respectful to everyone.

Communicate

Emphasize the use of appropriate language. Instead of saying a word like "lame" to insult something, students can be specific about what they mean. For example, they could say "That's not for me" or "I don't like that," allowing them to express their feelings without hurting anyone.

Thank

Act as a role model

and say, "Thank you for listening."