

Family Engagement in Research

Knowledge Translation Project: Partner brochures & budgeting planning

What is Easy English

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A comparison of writing styles

Research (scientific/medical) English	Plain English or Plain Language	Easy Read	Easy English
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Text is designed for someone with a reading and comprehension level of someone who has a scientific university degree.• Someone without specific training may struggle to read and understand the text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A direct way of writing for people with a reasonable reading and comprehension level.• Suitable for someone who has the equivalent reading level of a 12–14-year-old.• Helpful for people to read and understand the information easily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aimed at someone with a 9–11 year-old reading level.• Has minimal white spaces around the text.• Uses less line spacing between paragraphs.• Has no images on the title page or heading.• Has lots of words on the page.• May have words incorporated into images.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aimed at someone with a 5–6 year old reading level with adult lived experience.• Uses everyday words with short sentences with images or pictures.• Uses lots of white spaces around text and lots of line spaces.• Has no more than four concepts per page.• Users an image for every title or heading.

Visual Comparison

Plain English

Feelings and Emotions
SWAN families typically experience a range of emotions and feelings when they are without a diagnosis, and also when they receive one. **These may include:**


- Anxiety
- Uncertainty
- Disbelief
- Grief
- Worry
- Ambiguous loss
- Sadness
- Guilt
- Denial
- Vulnerability
- Helplessness
- Relationship strain
- Confusion
- Relief
- Acceptance
- Isolation
- Frustration
- Depression

“Without the support of SWAN, I think our family would have reached breaking point. Just knowing that we are not alone in our journey and having the support of the other families who understand what it is like to care for a SWAN child, is a huge relief.”

Communication Tips
Language is important when supporting SWAN families. Here are phrases to avoid and suggested alternatives:

Language to avoid	Alternative statements
Incompatible with life	Life limiting condition
Mentally retarded	Intellectual disability
Gene mutation	Gene change or gene variant
Do you have any questions?	What questions do you have?
There is a risk your child may have...	There is a chance your child may have...
Spasticity	Cerebral palsy
Hyper or hypotonia	Low or high muscle tone
We don't know if your child will ever...	Your child will tell their own story, don't put limits on them

“Life is difficult enough when you care for a child with a disability or chronic illness, but when nobody can give you an answer, it is that much harder.”



Easy Read

our site



Turn Easy Read Off

Quick Exit

This website is for women and girls with disability.

Scroll and Choose: ↓

- Your Rights**
Learn about your rights and how you can get help to stand up for yourself.
- Lead and Take Part**
Learn about your right to take part in work, education, hobbies, groups and organisations.
- Life Choices**
Learn about your right to make choices about your health, where you live, your money and getting support.
- Sex and Your Body**
Learn about your right to have relationships and







Easy English

Both study partners have questions.

Together we can answer them.

Together we can learn.

We can learn from you. You may know things we do not.



References

Access Easy English. *What is Easy English?*

<https://accesseasyenglish.com.au/what-is-easy-english/>

Centre for Inclusive Design. *Easy English versus Plain English: A guide to creating accessible content.* https://centreforinclusivedesign.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Easy-English-vs-Plain-English_accessible.pdf