



Addressing the Impact of Language, Biases, and Labels on Youth

Presenters: Annette Birgersson and Christin Santiago, CTRS

Date: March 27, 2026

Time: 11:00 AM to 2:15 PM ET (*All times East Coast USA Local Time*)

- 11:00 am – 12:30 pm**
- Introduction and overview
 - Activity
 - Why this matters (words are not neutral)
 - Self-fulfilling prophecy
 - Biases in practice
 - Behavior as communication (what's behind the behavior?)
 - Trauma symptoms
 - Biological and contextual vulnerabilities
- 12:30 – 12:45 pm**
- Break
- 12:45 – 2:15 pm**
- Needs and vulnerabilities awareness
 - Trauma and the brain
 - Shifting focus from problem behaviors to needs and skills
 - Shifting the lens in practice
 - Increasing buy-in
 - The importance of empowerment
 - How do we empower
 - Wizard skills
 - Putting the pieces together
 - Becoming curious
 - Key take-aways
 - Q&A and wrap-up

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