



Student With a Learning Disability

Classroom Scenario

Jeff is a fifth grade student who is bright, does well in group work, and participates actively in class discussions, but you are concerned that he seems to struggle with his reading assignments. He also loses his work frequently and has trouble getting started on projects. When writing, he writes far less than you know he could tell you and makes numerous spelling and grammatical errors. Despite understanding the concepts being taught, his tests do not reflect what he has actually learned. You do not want to see him give up on himself because you know he is smart!

Jeff struggles with executive functioning, reading, writing, and notetaking. He needs help with overall organization such as breaking down and planning out the steps of a project and getting started. He also struggles with reading assignments, especially new vocabulary. His challenges in writing include planning, spelling, and grammar. He has difficulty keeping up with notetaking and may struggle with math concepts and processes.

Potential Solutions

- For reading electronic text – Advanced Reading Aid like Kurzweil 3000, Snap and Read Universal, Read and Write Gold (also available as a Chrome extension), or Natural Reader
 - For vocabulary support – the C-Pen Reader and electronic dictionaries can help support new or difficult vocabulary within reading assignments
 - For organization – graphic organizers, time management apps, and color-coded notebook sections
 - For writing – Co:Writer Universal or Kurzweil 3000 for planning to write, word prediction for spelling and grammar support
 - For notetaking – PowerPoint or teacher-provided notes, graphic organizers, or Livescribe Pen
 - For dysgraphia – typing with portable word processors or iPads can help students who struggle with handwriting.
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