



Student Who Experiences Autism

Classroom Scenario

Mark is a loner. He shies away from interactions with other students, except when required to do so for group work because he struggles with how to connect. He is intelligent and does extremely well in math and reading, but struggles with writing. He begins a writing assignment but becomes frustrated and settles for incomplete work, quitting before he has done his best. Sometimes he has trouble getting started with assignments, or understanding the steps in a project. When frustrated, his behavior can escalate and he can become loud and belligerent. This also tends to isolate him from others.

Mark functions “well” academically but struggles with pragmatics in communication (e.g., literal meaning of phrases, what to say in certain situations) so he may have trouble working in groups. He may also have trouble with executive functioning like getting started on projects and other organizational skills. Mark is prone to writing meltdowns as all steps in the writing process need support, including handwriting issues.

Potential Solutions

- This student may benefit from a video modeling or social skills app to help them know what is appropriate in different settings
 - Support with all aspects of the writing process using planning (graphic organizers), drafting, word prediction, and editing components of Kurzweil 3000 or Co:Writer Universal.
 - Keyboarding instruction and speech recognition may also be helpful for this student.
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