

The World of Learning Disabilities: Practical Approaches to Support Adult Students

QACVE/QBTA Workshop June 11, 2009: Case Studies

The Case of Joey:

- Highly motivated, mature, good work attitude & ethic
- Severe reading difficulty: trouble reading words and understanding the meaning and inferences of written text
- Trouble copying instructions from the board or steps to a particular task
- Limited vocabulary
- Poor written organizational skills and limited ability in being able to transfer what he knows about a topic onto paper.
- Great oral skills and can tell you how he was able to solve a problem
- Trouble completing a job application form.

The Case of Jill:

- Requires much time to process information
- Poor retention of information and has trouble memorizing the steps to a task
- Performs similar tasks differently from day to day
- Difficulty at pronouncing, retrieving, and understanding some words
- Short attention span, often results in minimal comprehension of material
- Trouble following directions, especially when multiple and complex
- Very creative and social, yet lower sense of her skills

The Case of Derrick:

- Hard working student, who does not give up easily when confronted with a challenge
- Short attention span and poor sequencing of auditory information
- Falls asleep during verbal lectures
- Trouble focusing and limited reading comprehension abilities
- Does better when presented in a more interactive manner
- Hands-on and visual learner
- Difficulty listening to auditory instructions for more than a few minutes

The Case of Mark:

- Very-quiet, soft spoken, and compliant
- Requires much time to begin tasks, low self-esteem
- Difficulty developing ideas on paper, more of a list of fragmented sentences and details
- Limited ability to process information (take in, integrate, and provide response)
- Poor comprehension of verbal instructions
- Easily distracted
- Trouble working with his hands

- Enjoys group work and good word reading

The Case of Sarah:

- Has trouble retrieving words from memory, very good at describing context, yet cannot get the words out
- Puts in a lot of effort into her work, yet always obtains lower scores especially in math
- Reads and writes well, but cannot remember basic math functions
- Understands most of what she reads, but has difficulty listening to oral instructions
- Learns best through demonstration or by experiencing, cannot follow written directions
- Doubts own abilities and has trouble evaluating her strengths and challenges
- Often loses material
- Has difficulty with comparisons and trouble interpreting graphs/charts
- Good sense of humour and works best when material is structured for her