LD @school

How can I support a student who is experiencing difficulty learning?

1

Does the student seem receptive to learning?

Yes

No

If not, contact the parents to discuss what might be preventing the student from being receptive to learning. Keep in mind that multiple needs (e.g. physiological, safety, a sense of belonging and self-esteem) must be met in order for the student to be able to learn. Consider collaborating with the school's special education resource teacher. **Click here to access an article on teacher collaboration and student achievement. (http://bit.do/teacher-collaboration)**

2

Do these difficulties only occur occasionally?

Yes

No

If yes, use a variety of differentiated instructional strategies. For example, make sure that the student has properly understood the instructions (e.g. a visual organizer, concrete example), explain the concept again to small groups of students, or pair the student with a peer mentor, allow the student to express what they understand in different ways (e.g. poster, verbally), use concrete materials, vary your examples. **Click here to access an article on differentiated instruction. (http://bit.do/differentiated-instruction)**

3

If the learning difficulties occur regularly, does the student have an Individual Education Plan (IEP)?

Yes

If yes, and the strategies outlined in the IEP have been used, then review/revise the strategies as needed.
Click here to access a webinar recording on the development and implementation of the IEP. (http://bit.do/webinar-IEP)

No

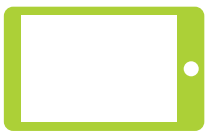
4

Do these difficulties only occur occasionally?

Yes

No

If not, provide the student with strategies to: increase attention (e.g. reduce or remove distractions), improve planning (e.g. provide step-by-step instructions), improve memory (e.g. break down the task or use simple instructions), increase organizational skills (e.g. develop routines, provide a framework for the material).
Click here to access an article on executive functions. (http://bit.do/executive-function)



5

Does the student experience difficulty learning in specific areas (e.g. numeracy, reading, writing)?

Yes

If yes, provide instructional and remedial strategies appropriate to the area of difficulty. If this has already been done, work together with the school team and parents to explore and provide appropriate accommodations (e.g. allow more time to complete a task, provide assistive technology ranging from low tech to high tech, based on the student's strengths and needs).
Click here to access some information on assistive technology. (http://bit.do/assistive-tech)

No

If not, work together with the parents and the principal to refer the student to the In-school Review Committee (ISRC); the ISRC may recommend exploring various assessments.