

Working better, working smarter, working together in schools for students who don't fit in

Presentation for
Canberra/Queanbeyan ADD Support Group Inc

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CHILDREN AND TEENS WHO DON'T FIT IN AT SCHOOL

- non-compliant
- argumentative
- high risk-taking
- rejected
- seeking acceptance
- attention-seeking
- less attentive
- more impulsive
- gifted and bored
- challenging to adult authority

MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN WHO FIT IN

- ability to project consequence
- ability to project into the feelings of others
- ability to reflect on their own actions and language
- *a structured learning environment*
- *repetition and simplification of instructions*
- *supplementation of verbal instructions with visual instructions*
- *chunked work in class*
- *adjustment of behavioural techniques (removal of detention and non-associated punishments)*
- *adjustment of class schedules to accommodate learning styles/pace*
« *modification of test delivery (concessions)*

- « *usage of tape recorders, computer-aided instruction & other audio-visual equipment*
- « *selection of modified textbooks or workbooks*
- « *sequenced homework assignments*

(Davilla, 1991)

The child who doesn't fit in benefits from:

- « an area with few distractions where the child can move around
- « ways to release excess energy
- « a clearly posted system of rules & reward of appropriate behaviour
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- « visual (non-verbal) reminders to use the right in-class behaviour, like raising a hand instead of shouting out, or staying in a seat instead of wandering around the room
- « having social needs recognized
- « praise and encouragement
- « siblings whose needs are recognised

« (Nadeau, undated)

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS

- use age-appropriate strategies
- use by-pass strategies
- select easiest strategies first
- select adaptations you agree with
- select those with demonstrated effectiveness
- create novel ones when necessary
- seek novel ones from PTs and parents

USEFUL REFERENCES

- « www.chadd.org
- « www.ldonline.org
- « jfoster@2metz.une.edu.au (Wraparound materials)
- « www.inspiration.com (see Kidspiration too)
- « www.amazon.com