



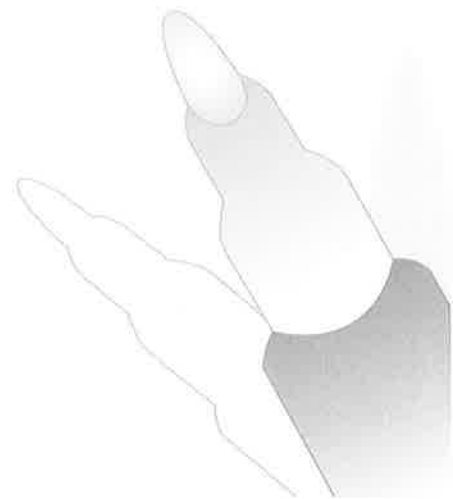
Case Study: Moderate Learning Difficulties

Leo is a seven year old boy with Moderate Learning Difficulties who attends his local mainstream primary school. Although his behaviour was a cause for concern when he started school he is now a happy, friendly child with a caring attitude to others. Staff are concerned about his language development and academic progress. Leo's communication is limited, he utters a few words and very rarely expresses himself in more than two short sentences. His vocabulary is very limited and there is severe delay in his understanding of basic concepts. When Leo is encouraged to answer a question his response is usually unrelated to the question. The school's main concerns are his inability to work independently and his slow learning process. He is just beginning to write his name and use phonic knowledge to attempt to write words. His pencil control and style of handwriting is beginning to improve. He can only recognise a few of the high frequency words. He will not attempt a task unless he is supported by an adult and he then requires constant prompting. Leo has difficulty maintaining attention on all classroom activities and constantly fidgets. Leo does not like being taken out of the class for individual work and becomes embarrassed at being singled out from his peers. He prefers to be taught in small groups where he can follow clear, concise instructions and work cooperatively with a partner.

Leo he enjoys role-play activities and playing with sand. When asked what his favourite thing at school is his reply will be related to whatever he is doing at the time so when eating at apple at break time he comments, 'Apple.'

When asked what makes him happy Leo responds, 'Nice,' and when asked what makes him angry he responds, 'I don't have angry.' Leo is unable to say in which month his birthday falls, he usually responds, 'Next week.'

Leo's mother reports that his homework is always too difficult for him and he cannot attempt to complete it even with help.





Activity: Moderate Learning Difficulties

Identify the triggers for concern that occur in this case study:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

List the actions that could be taken to address each difficulty in order to reduce the impact of Moderate Learning Difficulties on Leo's development:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

