

Breakthrough call – case studies.

Now you understand the four types of learning support a child might need take a look at these case studies and think about what type of help the child might need.

Some of these case studies are easy to understand. In some of these cases you might need to think carefully about your answer. After when you have come to your own conclusions take a look at what I discovered was needed.

Case study #1

Alex was always late getting ready for school. He didn't finish his homework unless his mother stayed by his side and he was not doing well in class though his teachers liked him and knew that he was bright.

He made excuses for not getting his work finished on time and expected his parents to help him do the work. He was an only child, his parents both worked, they were both easy going and wanted to make life easy for Alex.

Does Alex need help with Motivation or Learning Skill Development?

Case Study #2

Elizabeth worked well and got good grades for the first three years of school. Then her grades began to drop and she became unhappy and lost confidence in her abilities.

Does Elizabeth need help with Motivation or with Making School Make sense?

Case Study #3

Sarah had been placed in a remedial class because she didn't read well. She was an exceptionally bright artistic child who loved to draw and paint. She attended a private school where the curriculum was very traditional and rigid. Why was she having trouble learning to read?

Did Sarah need help to develop learning skills or to make sense of school?

Case Study #4

Tam was failing in school. He only ever did the minimum of work and even that was done badly. His teachers had tried everything to help him because they knew he was bright. Nothing worked. He was developing a bad attitude. He was behind in his studies.

Did Tam need help with Motivation or Moving to Mastery?

Case study #5

Ann angry and upset. She was struggling to learn in school. She was behind in several subjects but especially in writing book reports and essays. She had lost confidence in her ability to learn and hated school as a result.

Did Ann need support from a tutor or help developing learning skills?

Suggested Answers

1. Alex needed help to develop the learning skill of responsibility. He was motivated to learn but didn't know how to be responsible for his actions (always late for school – not responsible for finishing work). His parents found it difficult to hold him responsible for things.
2. Elizabeth needed help with making Sense of School. The move to Grade 4 came with a different style of teaching and she found it difficult to adjust.
3. Sarah also needed help to make sense of school. When she realized that she did not have to sound out every word but could look at the words and guess what they were her reading improved.
4. Tam had lost all his motivation to learn. He might also need help to develop learning skills but only after he got his motivation back.
5. Ann had been struggling for years because she had poor language skills. She needed help to develop that skill and help from a tutor to catch up on missed learning.