

Case Study

Mark is a 7 year old boy who is in year 2. School and parents have the following concerns about Mark:

1. Concerns with academic progress
2. Anxiety in social/group settings
3. Possible word-finding and memory difficulties
4. Proprioceptive/balance difficulties

Presenting needs

Cognition & learning

- Mark finds it very difficult to follow instructions unless there is prompting from adults.
- Mark has difficulty with concentration, maintaining attention to task and following activity around him.
- Mark finds it hard to sit still and listen and frequently forgets what he has been asked to do.
- Mark finds it difficult to start off an activity on his own. He refuses to work independently, even when he is capable of doing the task.
- Mark has difficulties with his information processing skills in both auditory and visual domains and needs 'thinking time.'
- Mark can struggle with sequencing information e.g. recalling the days of the week.
- Mark's ability to record written information at speed is poor.
- Mark shows features suggestive of social anxiety such as being afraid to speak up in front of peers and give answers in class.

Communication and Interaction

- Mark presents with difficulties with his speech, language and communication skills.
- Mark presents with formal receptive language skills that are age appropriate, however he struggles to use these in the context of school and social situations.
- Mark struggles to remember words for everyday objects and to find the right words to say what he wants to say.
- Mark struggles to repeat longer sentences.
- Mark tends to interpret language literally.
- Mark's social communication skills are limited and he finds it difficult to initiate conversation in a one- to-one context.
- Mark finds it difficult to use his language to seek help, to question or to approach other children in play situations.
- Mark finds it difficult to respond to a variety of questions when in a group and will roll his eyes and give limited verbal response.

Social, emotional and mental health difficulties

- Mark often appears to 'be in his own little world'.
- Mark appears overwhelmed by certain social situations and is overtly anxious about social interaction with other children and adults.
- Mark appears to have a degree of anxiety in settings where he may be the focus of attention.
- When nervous or uncertain about something, Mark will often respond with inappropriate facial expressions, giggles or noises.
- Mark does not express much emotion or speak about how he is feeling and is not 'expansive' in his answers.

- Mark can become very anxious and tearful when asked to do something he is not sure he can complete correctly and will require adult support to solve his anxieties.
- Mark does not like to try new activities.
- Mark has low self-confidence and self-esteem.

Sensory/physical

- Mark has a range of sensory sensitivities – with both seeking of sensory stimuli and avoiding of sensory stimuli.
- Mark is overwhelmed and disengaged by auditory and visual stimuli in the classroom.
- Mark has decreased balance skills and postural control.
- Mark has poor gross motor skills.
- Mark has some difficulty with the execution of manipulative tasks.

Progress

Mark is working one year below his same age peers, academically.

Other factors

None