

Case Study

Janet is a 13 year old girl in Year 9 who has Learning Difficulties. Janet has difficulties in expressing herself and temper outbursts as a consequence of her difficulties in expressing herself. Janet is making poor progress in school.

Presenting needs

Cognition and Learning

- Janet's non-verbal abilities are approximately two years below her chronological age.
- Janet has significant difficulties in written language and mathematical skills.
- Janet struggles to accurately perceive, process and retain verbal sequential information such as instructions and directions, letter patterns in words and number patterns.
- Janet experiences difficulty in the area of both her verbal and visual processing ability.
- Janet has considerable difficulties with working memory, phonological awareness and phonological processing skills.
- Janet has difficulties with attention and has poor concentration.
- Janet has a poor academic self-concept.
- Janet finds it very difficult to work independently.

Communication and Interaction

- Janet has a history of difficulty with speech and language development.
- Janet's main difficulties are within her receptive language skills.
- Janet can find it difficult to express herself with unfamiliar adults and situations, unless she feels confident and reassured.
- Janet struggles to contribute to class discussion

Social, emotional and mental health difficulties

- Janet has difficulty understanding facial expressions, non-verbal cues in social behaviour and being empathic.
- Janet tends to have a challenging relationship with many of her class peers because of her poor social communication and social awareness skills.
- Janet has one or two friends that she has developed a relationship with but has difficulty maintaining relationships with them.
- Janet struggles to socialise with unfamiliar people and prefers to be on her own.
- Janet does not seem to realise when she causes offence to others by her comments and may be antagonistic.
- Janet finds it difficult to join in positively with classroom banter and tends to understand language being used literally.
- Janet finds it difficult to control her frustration and anger and may run away from the immediate environment in response.
- Janet has difficulties with emotional self-regulation and can feel overwhelmed with emotion causing her to have temper outbursts.

Sensory/physical

- Janet has coordination difficulties and lacks spatial awareness.
- Janet has difficulty understanding the impact of her physical actions and her strength and can physically hurt others without realising.

Progress

Janet is currently performing at Level 2 in English, Level 3 in Maths and Level 1 in Science according to the new GCSE grading system (1-9, 9 being the top grade).

Janet presents with a very uneven cognitive profile, indicative of relative strengths and significant needs in the domain of thinking and reasoning.

Other factors

None