

Nonverbal Learning Disability

1. Why does a child with Nonverbal Learning Disability belong in the regular classroom?

It is because an inclusive classroom is surprisingly beneficial for both able and the nonverbal learning disabled kids. For the able kids, they get to see that there are other kids who are less skilled and different from them. These able kids can learn to develop patience and tolerance for those who are different from them. On the other hand, kids with NLD who by nature are hardworking, persistent, goal-oriented, and incredibly honest, need to really develop their social skill among many other skills. This is best to do it in an inclusive classroom. Also, because NLD is a disorder with clearly defined assets and deficits, successful interventions can be developed using a child's strengths to compensate for weaknesses. Regular classroom is an optimal learning condition for a child with NLD. These NLD students who struggle with organization, flexibility, mathematical reasoning, and social skills can be helped through using their remarkable rote memory, attention to detail, auditory retention, and innate sense of fairness and integrity. With proper training and coaching in regular classroom they can grow up to become contributing members of society.

2. What could you do to include this child in YOUR classroom?

First, I need to study and get as much information as I could about NLD and get proper training on how to deal with kids with special needs. Then I need to find out exactly what I need to do and how to prepare the classroom so that a child with NLD would feel safe and welcome. Then, the first day of class I would do a bibliotherapy to help all the kids in the class to celebrate uniqueness and appreciate that we are all different and hence we all learn differently. I would also pick one of the able kids to be the NLD kid's buddy to help him/her to get around the school. I would continue to monitor and maintain as best as possible the ideal or closest to idea learning environment for the students.

3. *What could you say* to other teachers, school leaders or parents to help them see the value of including a child with this exceptionality in the regular classroom or in your school?

I would say pretty much the same thing as I did in question number one. I would tell them that inclusive classroom with a child with NLD can benefit all students. I would also try to convince them that all students deserve equally opportunity and fairness which means every student deserve to be treated according to his/her needs.