

Signs of SEN in Children (classroom)

1. Is easily distracted.
2. Generates distraction or is considered the class clown.
3. Engages in disruptive or aggressive behaviour.
4. Gets angry with themselves, often over seemingly trivial issues. May be a perfectionist and/or have demonstrably low self-esteem.
5. Does not enjoy school.
6. Becomes stressed when starting tasks or when asked to work on their own.
7. Is reluctant to do homework, especially unaided.
8. Makes little or no progress at school. (Some children may even regress).
9. Avoids reading or takes no pleasure from it.
10. Can read but reads slowly. Has good eyesight but is monosyllabic when reading aloud (or may refuse to read out loud). May struggle to scan text.
11. Declares they 'hate maths' when in reality 'they don't get it'.
12. Is disorganised - late settling to work, last to finish packing-up and leaving the classroom. 'Forgets' to do homework or revise for tests.
13. Forgets what the task is; has trouble remembering more than two or three instructions at once.
14. Has spider hand-writing, presentation of work is messy and paintings indecipherable.
15. Is articulate but can't or won't put pen to paper.
16. Has an awkward pencil grip. May have difficulty remembering where to start writing and/or struggle to copy accurately from the board.
17. Bumps into things, is clumsy and has poor spatial awareness. May have difficulty hopping, jumping or catching a ball and will literally trip-over their own feet.
18. Hears but frequently mis-hears what is said. They may be able to repeat sentences verbatim but not comprehend meaning or grasp nuance.
19. Finds making and sustaining friendships problematic, even avoiding social contact altogether. May be shy and withdrawn and/or avoid eye-contact altogether.
20. Has difficulty with change. Even pleasant surprises can be upsetting.