

## STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

### GUIDELINES FOR STUDENT

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#### Introduction

The approach aims in the early identification of the situation. Although this is a slow process, it is important in order everybody involved in the learning process (teacher, student, parents) should have the same view on the situation. Step 1 and Step 2 are important for the student. This is where most of the stories fail. Parents and teachers should also be aware of this danger.

Step 3 to 5 presents the way several actions should be adopted in order a student to face the problem and ask for advice. Steps 6 to 8 can be a repetitive process since many things should be changed and applied in order to have a customized and personalized learning path.

The last two steps have to do with the assessment of the process and the dissemination of the story among each beneficiary.

## Observation

One of the first steps is to observe that something is making you look different. Or make you feel different. It is an observation of the real classroom conditions.

1. Explore your friends next to you in the classroom. Select randomly a couple of them.
2. Do you think that their performance seems better than yours?
3. Check if their performance even at your favorite courses is better.
4. Ask them how much time it takes to get prepared for the next course.
5. Ask them how long do they study at home in order to be ready for the following day
6. Examine the behavior and the progress of the student based on classroom feedback

## Websites

- [School Safety Success Stories](#)

The School Safety Net Portal contains several success stories. The internal search engine allows to filter the results according to the thematic area "Students with learning difficulties".

- ["Fostering the child's positive behaviors" - Learned Lessons - GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE for a positive education of the parents, teachers and students](#)

An article concerning a best practice guide which aims to create a tool in order to implement a preparation methodology for the professionals' training positive education which work with children and parents.

## Acknowledge of the Difficulty

The most important task is to locate any potential difficulty. Difficulties face most of the students at their daily school practice. There are differences from student to students. Make the following steps or ask yourself these questions and act accordingly.

1. Do you think that most of your class mates have better performance than you?
2. Do you think that most of your class mates understand things better or faster than you?
3. Do you think that there are courses that you really try hard and do not get back a reward for your effort?
4. Do you think that there are things in the classroom that you really can't follow?
5. Do you think that despite any effort you make in the classroom, there are still things missing in your understanding of the theory of each class?
6. Any positive answer in the previous questions should progress you to Step 3.

### Websites

- [Communication and early school leaving](#)  
Strategies developed in the different European countries to combat problem of Early School Leaving as well as to develop a common strategy to prevent the phenomenon.
- [Educational tool to fight risk](#)  
Useful tools that have been put into practice, for example questionnaires that exam the characteristics of students at risk and the assessment of these tools.

## Request for an Advice

Despite the things that you feel, most of the students have learning difficulties. It is quite common in the daily practice of school life. In most cases the solution is very simple. But you have to get another view of this situation and the best sources for that are your family and your teachers.

1. Make a small discussion about the things that you discovered in Step 2 with your parent(s). Mention any examples of your daily school practice you discovered in Step 2. Just present the case to your parent(s)
2. Ask your favorite teacher for a private discussion on any difficulty you face on his/her subject. Teachers really want to know the way you feel so...
3. Discuss your "tiny" problem with the teacher that you are facing difficulties. If you do feel uncomfortable to discuss it with a specific teacher, select one that you feel easier to do an open discussion for school and your courses. Present your feelings clearly.
4. Request some extra complimentary work on the subjects you do feel uncomfortable with your performance.

### Websites

- ["Student's induction" Guide for teachers and trainers](#)  
This guide is designed to help teachers with the information they need in order to design, plan and implement induction programs for students. During learning activities, the students will move from being passive participants to be some active.
- [Guide for children with special educational needs \(icons\) - iPhone app](#)  
Review of a web article presenting an application which helps children to deal with everyday activities.
- [External Support and Cooperation](#)  
This module encourages participants to examine causes and supports for teachers and students to address and prevent early school leaving.
- [School Safety Success Stories](#)  
The School Safety Net Portal contains several success stories. The internal search engine allows to filter the results according to the thematic area "Students with learning difficulties".
- [Learning tools about self-esteem and evaluation](#)  
This website is specifically devoted to research and action for promoting learner autonomy. Learning Paths aims to help this process of self-discovery by providing materials and references.

## Self Evaluation

- In most cases the process in step 3 will improve your way of studying and exploring your knowledge in the school. But follow the next steps in order to have a small self evaluation of your milestones during this process.
- Ask from your teacher to give you some extra help with your tasks. Ask for some advice in order to clearly understand his subject in the classroom.
- Ask your mother/father/parent to help you with your tasks. Try to spend some more time with them during the preparation of your homework.
- Try to answer yourself again the questions in Step 2
- Even with no positive answers in these questions, move into step 5.

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Review of a web article presenting an application which helps children to deal with everyday activities.

## Teacher Evaluation

Teachers are there to help. This is also the case for parents. Despite your thoughts in your difficulties in school, they could give you some adult advice in this situation.

1. Ask your teacher to express his/her view on your performance during classroom sessions. Present the way that you feel in different courses and the problems that you seem to face on specific subjects.
2. Ask your parents to do the same thing with your teacher. They can both work together in this subject.
3. Receive his/her feedback on your performance in the classroom and do not hesitate to ask more questions or raise any arguments in his/her evaluation
4. Ask for feedback and advice on your performance in homework and some extra tips for improving your study at home.
5. The teacher will ask you for some questionnaires to be filled in. Try to be as accurate as you can be.
6. The teacher will complete some observation forms. Try to have accurate answers to his/her questions. Discuss with the teacher the findings from these forms

### Websites

- [We Want S.E.X. \(School Expectation Xperience\)](#)  
A study that aims to verify how the reorganization of vocational schools has had an impact on how students "lived" school, especially those students who already had great difficulty in relating to this environment and with a commitment to study.
- [Learning Disabilities: Cognitive Approaches](#)  
The book is a study of the evolutionary process of learning functions. Featured cognitive approaches of learning functions and key issues of dyslexia.
- [Active Diary Guidelines](#)  
Really useful guide for students which: a) offer a tool that helps the student planning their activities; b) help to schedule the student work following the cognitive processes that lead to learning acquisition; c) create a pattern of learning although the amount of homework is different every day.

## Accomplish a Learning Path



In order to achieve an educational task, students follow a learning curve that it might be different from one student to the other. There are different learning paths that you can follow in order to get to the same result.

1. Ask a teacher for a customized learning path as a road map in order to improve your understanding on the course
2. Discuss this road map with your teacher
3. Suggest potential improvements
4. Discuss the road map with your parents
5. Ask your parents to discuss this process with your teacher.
6. Come into a common understanding on the results of this learning path

### Websites

- [Learning tools about self- esteem and evaluation](#)  
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- [School coaching – Raising the potential of students in difficulties](#)  
This book is the result of a field experience enriched by the analysis of practices and it is the temporary outcome of the author's reflection action.

## Moving Forward

This is a step for your own. There are a few things that you need to do for yourself. These steps might take some time depending on the road map that you are following. Try to stay focused on this map.

7. Follow the steps decided as a road map in Step 6. Try to be as close as possible to the actions that this roadmap requires
8. Collect any milestones or results the road map indicates. Even derivations of this process do not matter at this stage.
9. Establish a logbook of the steps that you followed.
10. Self evaluate your time required to accomplish tasks.
11. Note any difficulties or side effects on your performance during the implementation of this road map.

### Websites

- [School coaching – Raising the potential of students in difficulties](#)  
This book is the result of a field experience enriched by the analysis of practices and it is the temporary outcome of the author's reflection action.
- [Students' Evaluation of Mainstreaming Social Skills](#)  
The purpose of this study is to evaluate the social skills of the mainstreamed elementary students by comparing them with their classmates.
- [CalDys2](#)  
A Bulgarian project presented to support teachers and specialists who work in the schools with students with dyslexia and other learning difficulties.

## Progress Evaluation

You are now on a very crucial step of your process. Despite the self- evaluation, further consultancy is needed.

1. Discuss the results of Step 7 with your parents. Present your point of view on your progress. Discuss any difficulties you faced in the road map.
2. Discuss the results of Step 7 with your teachers. Present your point of view on your progress. Discuss any difficulties you faced in the road map.
3. Ask for further advice. There are still things that you missed or new targets to be accomplished.
4. Ask for improvements in the results. Any minor improvement gives an impetus in your self esteem.
5. Ask for adjustments in the process. Any process can be modified according to your specific needs.
6. Discuss any comments that you have with your teacher and parents

### Websites

- [Steps Parents Should Take Once Their Child Is Identified With A Learning Disability](#)  
This web-site is mainly dedicated to parents but it would be really helpful also for teachers and students and it aims to provide parents with a few tips on how to handle the situation and how to guide their child to success in school and in life.
- [School Safety Success Stories](#)  
The School Safety Net Portal contains several success stories. The internal search engine allows to filter the results according to the thematic area "Students with learning difficulties".

## Assessment of Work Done

It is time again for a self assessment. It is important for you to be able to judge any situation that you are facing.

1. Evaluate the results of the work done by your own. Use your own way of evaluating your performance.
2. Are you satisfied with your results?
3. Are you satisfied with the work that you did during this process?
4. Did you follow the steps described in your road map?
5. Did you tried hard? Did you have time to do everything?
6. In case of positive answers to every question, move into step 10

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## Final Outcome of Work

At the end of the process you should have achieved several of the foreseen milestones. It is not expected that all parameters would have been fulfilled. But it is important to summarize your efforts so far.

1. Derive some milestones in your foreseen performance with your teacher
2. Present the results of this work to your parents
3. Write your story and share it

### Websites

- [Trends in High School Students to Quit School and Causes](#)  
This research was conducted in order to identify the school dropout rates and reasons in the South-East Anatolian Region of Turkey.
- [School Safety Success Stories](#)  
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