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I N S I D E

**“When Your Child’s Homework Becomes Your Homework
 12 Red Flags of a Bigger Learning Problem”**

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Make DRAMATIC Improvements in Your Child or Teen’s Learning in months, NOT years!

Struggling year after year in school is frustrating and discouraging! **Bright kids** may give up or be mistaken as being **lazy** or **unmotivated**.

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Brain Waves

Solving Reading, Attention, Communication & Learning Challenges in Children, Teens and Adults

When Your Child’s Homework Becomes *Your* Homework

12 Red Flags of a Bigger Learning Problem



Is homework time a battle between you and your child? Does it take forever? Do you have to break assignments into easier-to-manage chunks and then micro-manage each step? **How much do you have to help so your child can merely *get by* in school?**

As a parent, it is frustrating to be waiting and waiting for your child to be independent! It reminds me of watching a plane that is just sitting on the runway—engines going, propellers spinning, anticipating for it to take off—but it *never* does! Let’s jump ahead to the future...

I’m guessing that you don’t plan on going off to college with your child to help him get to his classes on time, to do homework with him, or to remind him when it’s due. I’m also guessing that you don’t plan on your child living with you forever because he couldn’t ‘make it’ in the real world. While teachers might make accommodations (such as allowing extra time on tests or providing a ‘buddy’), bosses do not!

The difference between what is considered ‘normal’ vs. a ‘*real* learning problem’ is not always obvious. It can even be downright confusing when you recognize that your bright child has many strengths, but lacks the ability to do schoolwork independently, or isn’t living up to his potential. You might even think he is capable of doing the work, but is “just lazy and disorganized.”

So how do you know if there is a *real* problem? Just like a thumbprint, we each have a unique brain. And each brain comes with strengths *and* weaknesses. The weaknesses are a problem if they get in the way of being independent and self-reliant in school and even more importantly, in life. Here is a list of 12 areas that are warning signs of a deeper problem:

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Learning and attention problems, whether formally diagnosed or just mildly annoying, can cause students to feel unnecessary pain, frustration, and embarrassment day in and day out.

At The Speech And Learning Coach, we help people of all ages develop the underlying processing skills that they need to become comfortable, independent learners.

In This Issue
Discover the difference between what is considered ‘normal’ vs. a ‘*real* learning problem’

12 Red Flags that are warning signs of a deeper problem

1. Memory- Can your child remember 3 tasks and execute them? Does your child seem to know the information when studying, but then bombs the test?

2. Does your child appear to be lazy? This could show up as having a slouching body posture, carelessness of work, or disinterest in important things such as schoolwork, or social interaction.

3. Organization- Does your child have difficulty organizing his thoughts, materials, time, or personal space? Are assignments completed and turned in on time?

4. Attention- Can your child focus and pay attention for less preferred tasks like homework? Is daydreaming getting in the way of his work? Do you see your child hyper-focus on favorite activities and on the *little* details, but then miss the big picture? Do you see excessive body movement, especially when trying to concentrate?

5. Auditory Processing- Does your child correctly hear, remember, and comprehend what you are saying? Does she often ask “What?” or “Huh?” for clarification?

6. Impulsivity- Does your child blurt out answers without raising his hand, talk out of turn, or often interrupt? Does he act without thinking first? Is he overly defensive or become aggressive when you try to help?

7. Effort- Does your child have to work harder than the other children do? How much energy does it take to keep up or to pay attention? Is your child exhausted after school from all of his effort?

8. Mental Flexibility- Is your child a good problem solver, and can he quickly create Plan B if Plan A doesn't work out—and be okay with it? Does he transition easily from one task to another? Does change bring on a melt-down? Is he capable of seeing things from a different perspective?

9. Mistakes- Does your child make careless mistakes? A father recently shared that his smart daughter can do just about anything to 80% success. But 80% isn't good enough when it comes to doing a math problem, spelling a word correctly, or just about anything that requires details.

10. Emotional Problems- Does your child believe in himself? How is his self-esteem, confidence level, and resilience? Does he get frustrated easily and give up? Do you see anxiety, depression, withdrawal, or a fear of trying because he believes he will just fail again? How often do you see anger or tears?

11. Body and Motor Skills- Is your child aware of his body in the space it occupies? Does he appear clumsy, have poor balance, or awkward motor skills? There is a strong mind-body relationship—a disorganized body often coexists with excessive motor movements and symptoms of mental inattention and disorganization.

12. Behavior- Negative behavior can be a symptom of the stress your child is experiencing. Is he the ‘class clown’ or withdrawn in class? Does he lash out at family members? As parents, we usually get the burden and impact of the negative behavior—parents are a soft place to fall *and* to fall apart on.

The 12 Red Flags are indicators that something else is going on—that in spite of being bright, your child may have missed a step in development, a step that is critical to supporting the daily demands being placed upon him in the classroom and in the real world.

We have a message of hope for parents that tell us that their child is 'getting by,' but only with the help of tutors and extra support at home. They reveal that they are tired of being their child's 'organizer,' and they feel like they are re-living middle school all over again. **It doesn't have to be this way**—*However*, learning and attention problems won't stop by *waiting* for them to go away! Let me share a story with you about one of our students...

Eric's mom saw the red flags when he was in 2nd grade. He was behind his classmates in reading, and his teacher said he had difficulty paying attention. His mom called us to inquire about getting him help, but she decided to wait and see if he would 'just grow out of it.' She didn't contact us again until the end of 6th grade. By this time, he had been on ADHD medication for a few years and he was not only struggling in school—he *hated* school, and worse, he had lost all belief in himself. When I evaluated him he could not sit still and he avoided making eye-contact—he just seemed so sad and defeated, like the wind was taken out of his sail!

After evaluating Eric's processing skills, we created an individualized program that addressed each area of weakness. Within a few months his motor skills, attention, and overall learning were significantly better. As his confidence soared, he set a goal to make honor roll at school, which he has continuously accomplished! Plus, his ADHD medication is now a low dose and only on school days. So, I wonder where Eric would be today if he didn't get the help he needed. His mom just wrote in an email, **"I am so thankful for everything *The Speech And Learning Coach* has done for Eric—you have no idea how he has changed...I have tears in my eyes—happy ones, had I only come to you guys in 2nd grade...I had to see to believe, but now a believer."**

If you see one or more of the *Red Flags* in your child, and you suspect that it's more than just temporary 'fog on the runway' that is causing the delay in your child 'taking off' toward ease in: learning, paying attention, and communicating—then you are probably right!

The first step is to determine which symptoms and foundational obstacles are getting in the way of your child's true potential. You can do this by contacting us directly, or by visiting www.TheSpeechAndLearningCoach.com where you can **download *The Learning Problems Checklist*** and **watch an educational video**. These steps will help you to guide your child down the runway of success toward a brighter future!

Learning and attention problems won't stop by waiting for them to go away!