

A Poem for Your Pleasure

An ode to the child with learning difficulties.



If a task is too hard...

I know I can't do it, I don't want to do it and doing it just makes me know how 'dumb' I really am

If a task is too easy...

I might do it because it's easy but I'm not fooled by you being nice and saying how clever I am at it. I know that I'm so dumb you have to give me baby work for me to be able to get it right.

If a task is at the right level of difficulty...

If I work at it, I can do this task. I'm doing well at it but only because I'm working on it. If you work me through a graded series of tasks to develop my skill, I'll get better and better at it. I'll see that I'm learning stuff and I can understand it. I'm getting there and it's because I'm working at it. Maybe I'm not dumb after all. It's like the teacher says - I just learn differently.

I need success and need to know I earned it

If you teach me something by just explaining....

I might understand it but I might have processing problems - I get a bit overwhelmed by lots of new verbal information.

If you teach me by explaining then showing me some examples step by step...

I'll understand it much better.

If I have lots of practice...

I'll understand it better still.

If I have lots and lots of practice...

I'll not just understand it but I'll remember it and be able to use it in other situations. I'll be automatic at the skill. I'll feel clever and be able to apply the skill in other situations.

Automatic = correct + fast + supereasy

If after I've learned work well we don't do it anymore and move onto new work...

I'll forget it. I have problems making long term memories of information which was not easy to learn.

If you give me occasional revision and retests of work I've had to work hard to learn...

I'll make long term memories of what you've taught me. I'll have mastered it and be able to use it and you and I will feel real success. Once something is automatic, checking my skill after longer and longer intervals of time helps me remember work perfectly.

Know how you learn!