



Help! My child needs extra help!

When you suspect your child might need extra help with learning, it's not always easy to know where to start. Our professional teachers offer these suggestions.

Your child might need extra help if they:

- become upset or shut down when you talk about school or a certain subject
- try to deflect attention away from themselves by saying the teacher is mean or boring, or say school is too easy or hard
- consistently try to find excuses to avoid their homework or going to school
- make so many spelling errors that you have difficulty reading their writing
- are not meeting expectations in their subject areas



If you are seeing some of these signs, you can:

- take action as soon as possible – getting help early will preserve your child's self-confidence
- start by talking to the classroom teacher to pinpoint challenges and create a plan
- ask what resources are available through the school and when the help will be available
- help your child deal with their feelings by reassuring them that lots of people need extra help, offering an anecdote of a time when you needed help, or reminding them of something they are good at
- congratulate yourself for being an aware and caring parent who is taking action

If you decide your child needs individualized attention through a learning support program, look for:

- professional teachers with specialized training in remedial learning
- a program that offers a variety of approaches and respects different learning styles
- your own comfort level and gut feeling about the values and mandate of the organization – is it a “good fit” for you and your child.

These suggestions are provided by Janie Harrison, B.Ed. a remedial teacher at the non-profit READ Society. More information at www.readsociety.bc.ca 250-388-7225.