

REINFORCING STRENGTHS

Refer to PRACTICAL SHEET n°:

PP39, PP44, PP46, WC1, WC13

Use these TOOLBOX resources:

Exercises to reinforce strengths

Detecting strengths:

Step 1: Identify the learner's strength that can be strengthened. This can be done in several ways:

- Assessment by the teacher using an observation grid
- Self-assessment by the pupil
- Peer assessment
- Discussion with relatives or friends
- ...

What are the different types of strengths?

- ...
- ...

Step 2: Once identified, discuss them openly and positively with the student.

Step 3: Find ways to help reinforce strengths and demonstrate their usefulness.

How to reinforce strengths

Task 1: Take one of the usual classroom exercises and turn it into a group activity. Group activities promote collaboration and complementarity. This highlights different types of strengths.

Task 2: Do an activity to identify each other's strengths and weaknesses and who can best complement them. The others can list the strengths of their classmates to show that we can see the strengths in each other.

Task 3: In your regular teaching practice, vary the formats and methods used to stimulate different learning styles.

Task 4: Take an exercise from the following lesson and adapt it using a multi-sensory approach to stimulate different learning styles.

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What strengths do you think you have? Circle and rate 1 - 10

Example of strengths that can be observed in the classroom:

- Ability to learn from mistakes
- Self-discipline
- Problem solving
- Leadership skills
- Being kind and friendly
- Honesty
- Creativity
- Critical thinking
- Ability to listen
- Open-mindedness
- Planning skills
- Handling criticism
- Collaboration
- Time management
- Socialising
- ...

Ce alte puncte forte ați mai putea observa?

Remember:

Consolidating strengths is especially important for students with specific learning disabilities because they should not be defined by what they can't do, but rather by what they can do! This can go a long way to boosting the confidence and personal development of a student with SLD.

Strengths building exercise

A pupil shows appropriate strength or behaviour. How can we reinforce this strength?

- Positive reinforcement encourages the learner to repeat the behaviour or work on a particular skill. What type of positive reinforcement would you use and why?
- Direct reinforcement: natural consequence of the behaviour. If the pupil has been nice to his/her peers during a group work, they are likely to ask him/her again.
- Social reinforcement: comes from others in the form of praise or a sign of approval (written, spoken, smile, nod, etc.).
- Active reinforcement: allows the pupil to do something they enjoy.
- Tangible reinforcement: physical reward (edible, toys, etc.).
- Symbolic reinforcement: tokens or points.

Practical questions:

What reinforcers do you use in your teaching practice and why?

How would you incorporate different reinforcement practices into your teaching practice in the future?