

What Teachers May See

Mark, Senior Kindergarten

Mark always seems to be tired and has a lack of energy and motivation when he gets to school. He constantly complains of headaches and stomach aches. During play time Mark prefers to do activities on his own rather than with the other children, when he does play with the other children he often gets into conflicts with the others. He has not formed any stable relations with any of the students in the class. During lessons Mark has a lot of difficulty paying attention, his focus always seems to be elsewhere and he tends to get impatient and hyper during learning times. When he is asked to calm down and pay attention he becomes very angry and kicks his chair and shouts back to his teacher. He never wants to participate or share during 'show and tell' when forced to do so, his verbal skills are not where they should be according to his age. He tends to fall asleep often in class during quiet time or when reading.

Grade 10 Girl (note found by teacher)

I started cutting my arms...in places where no one can see...and as the blood trickles down it's like the tears I cannot cry running down my face. I thought Mikey would save me but instead he hits me too...just like dad still hits mom when she does stupid things...must mean I'm stupid too...

Mark, Grade 11

Mark has been the target of bullying as he is often being teased for his dishevelled clothing, his shyness and awkwardness. Also, just last week, the school principal flagged Mark as a target of bullying after discovering he was being pushed around in the Boys locker room . When the principal attempted to talk to Mark, he avoided the issue and asked to go back to class. Recently Mark has stopped showing up early to class and other teachers have reported that he no longer hangs around after school. Instead, the main office has reported that Mark is regularly arriving late to class as well as leaving early in addition to an increase in absences. When asked about his decreasing attendance Mark quickly responded that he is taking care of his eight year old brother, feeding him in the morning and making sure he makes it to class safely as well as picking him up after class.

Alyssa, Grade 1

Alyssa shows a lot of difficulties remaining focused. She is relatively behind in her reading and math compared to other children at her grade level . It is not uncommon for her to come to class without her homework completed. However, she displays a lot of creativity which she displays during "Art" . She shows consistency in her artwork, always showing her and her mother holding hands. Her father will either not be pictured or drawn a far distance from the two of them and he is often quite large and disproportionate to the rest of the picture.

Chelsea, Grade 1

Chelsea is six years old and her teacher is beginning to suspect that something is upsetting her. Chelsea currently attends a local elementary school and is in a grade one classroom. Recently Chelsea's classroom behaviours have changed. Over the last four months she has withdrawn from her friends and appears tired most of the time. In the past, Chelsea was talkative and vivacious, but recently has become shy and remote. Chelsea is hyper-vigilant and constantly seeks approval from her teacher. Despite her need to please her teacher Chelsea has not been completing her homework and her grades have been dropping as of late. She worries excessively about "doing things right" and when she feels she has done something wrong she appears afraid.