

Navigating Stress and Building Resilience: Emotional Well-being in Children and Adolescents with Learning Disabilities

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INTRODUCTION

Children and adolescents with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLDs) often face significant challenges that extend beyond academic difficulties. The experience of struggling with learning tasks, while peers seem to progress more easily, can lead to heightened levels of stress and emotional difficulties. The stress these children face may arise from repeated failures, frustration, and the social stigma associated with learning differences. However, resilience, the ability to adapt and cope with adversity, plays a crucial role in shaping their emotional well-being. Understanding how stress, resilience, and emotional well-being interact in children and adolescents with SLDs is vital for supporting their development and ensuring they have the tools to succeed both academically and emotionally. Stress is a natural reaction to challenging situations, and for children with SLDs, the academic environment can be a consistent source of stress. These children often struggle with tasks such as reading, writing, or mathematics, which are fundamental to school performance. The pressure to meet academic expectations, combined with frequent experiences of failure or underachievement, can contribute to chronic stress. Over time, this stress may lead to feelings of inadequacy, low selfesteem, and anxiety. Children with SLDs are also more likely to face social challenges, such as peer rejection or bullying, which can compound their stress levels.

DESCRIPTION

These negative emotions can impact not only their academic performance but also their relationships with family, friends, and teachers. Without appropriate intervention, stress and emotional difficulties can create a cycle in which academic struggles exacerbate emotional problems, and emotional problems, in turn, hinder academic progress. Despite the challenges, many children and adolescents with SLDs demonstrate resilience, a key factor in their ability to cope with stress and maintain emotional well-being. Resilience refers to the capacity to recover from difficulties, adapt to adversity, and continue to move forward despite setbacks. In the context of children with SLDs, resilience is influenced by a variety of factors, including individual personality traits, family support, and school environments. Some children are naturally more resilient due to inherent traits such as optimism, perseverance, and problem-solving skills. These children are better able to view challenges as opportunities for growth and learning rather than insurmountable obstacles. Family support plays a crucial role in fostering resilience in children with SLDs. Children who have strong, supportive relationships with their parents and caregivers tend to cope more effectively with the stress associated with learning disabilities.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, children and adolescents with specific learning disabilities often face high levels of stress due to academic and social challenges. However, resilience plays a critical role in helping them cope with adversity and maintain emotional well-being. The development of resilience is influenced by a combination of individual traits, family support, and school environments. By fostering resilience and providing the necessary emotional and academic support, parents, educators, and counsellors can help children with SLDs thrive both academically and emotionally, ensuring that their learning differences do not define their potential for success.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The author's declared that they have no conflict of interest.

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