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Determining Educational Achievement

Caroline M. Parris
Longwood University

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Determining Educational Achievement
Victoria O’Leary and Caroline Parris
Aftab Khan, Ph.D.
Longwood University

Abstract
This is a single subject case study using the method of purposive sampling of a student with Cerebral Palsy, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and Speech Impairment. The subject was given the Woodcock Reading Mastery, KeyMath, and Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement assessments due to noticeable poor academic performance. Students with Cerebral Palsy often have cognitive deficits. The reason for this investigation was to determine subject’s strengths and weaknesses. By determining his strengths and weaknesses it would be easier to focus instruction and provide support on areas where he has the most difficulty. Also, administering multiple achievement tests would determine if my subject’s low performance was due to difficulties in one subject area (such as reading) that was affecting his performance across the curriculum. The purpose for this study was to obtain data that could be reviewed used to provide the instructional support and planning needed to improve his educational achievement. We found that our hypothesis was true; The results showed that he performed significantly below average in overall achievement.

Hypothesis
The hypothesis for this study is that JD is having difficulty in overall achievement including math, reading and writing.

Demographic of Student
- Eighth grade student at Prince Edward Middle
- Diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, ADHD, and a speech impediment
- Participates in all general education classes with inclusion supports
- Receives read-aloud support on all tests
- Given a calculator in math
- Behavior of Student
  - Social student with many friends
  - Low amount of class participation
  - Focused and Diligent
  - Compliant
- During the assessment
  - Good attitude/willing to participate
  - Inquisitive on why he was being tested

Background
Cerebral Palsy
Cerebral Palsy is a disorder of movement, muscle tone, or posture. It is caused by damage that occurs to the developing brain, often before birth. Such damage can be caused by infections during birth such as rubella or cytomegalovirus, jaundice in the infant a few days after birth, or trauma during labor. The effect on the person’s functionality abilities varies greatly. Some show normal or near-normal intellectual capacity, however others might have intellectual disabilities as well as vision, speech, hearing, and language problems.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is the most common mental disorder among children. Those diagnosed have an ongoing pattern of hyperactivity, inattention, and impulsivity. The most common symptom being hyperactivity. Scientists are not sure what cause ADHD but my there are factors that have been considered to higher the risk of having a child with ADHD. These factors include genetics, cigarette smoking, being hyperactivity. Scientists are not sure what cause ADHD but my there are factors that have been considered to higher the risk of having a child with ADHD. These factors include genetics, cigarette smoking, and brain injuries. There are treatments for ADHD including medication, psychotherapy, and others.

Woodcock Reading Mastery
- Richard Woodcock (2011)
- Designed to assess the reading levels of people of all ages
- Consists of two different form G and H
- Includes six subtests: visual-auditory learning, letter identification, word identification, word attack, word comprehension, and passage comprehension
- Subtests fall into three clusters: readiness cluster, basic skills cluster, and the reading comprehension cluster.
- All clusters are added together to get the total reading cluster

KeyMath
- Austin Connolly (2007)
- Used to diagnosis students with learning disabilities in mathematics
- Available in two parallel form A and B
- Subtests are grouped into three general math content areas: basic concepts, applications, and operations

Kaufman Test of Educational Achievement
- Nadeen and Alan Kaufman (2014)
- Assess student achievement in education to find gaps in their performance, also used to find specific learning disabilities
- Includes 19 different subtest that assess a variety of subjects including math, read, oral language, and written language
- Broken down into core composites, overall composites, reading related composites, oral composites, and cross-domain composites

Results & Discussion
After assessing the subject with Woodcock Reading Mastery, KeyMath, and KTEA, and reviewing the areas where he had the most difficulty there were a few pattern that were noticed. While the subject was behind grade-level in all tested subjects he showed significant difficulties in comprehension. On the Woodcock Reading Mastery some of the subjects’ lowest scores were in visual auditory and passage comprehension. Similarly for the KTEA, some of his lowest scores were in narrative reading comprehension and listening comprehension. The subject’s overall has a difficult time with math. Between the KTEA and KeyMath, his most common errors occurred in the incorrect use of operations, word problems, and problems using time or money. Cerebral palsy is associated with students having lower cognitive abilities; This was proven to be true with our subject.

References