

TRANSCRIPT: School: learning and teaching styles

Alison, Jade's mother

Jade is very bright but her cognitive levels and her processing speeds aren't the same as somebody else that perhaps is as bright as she is. So it can take longer for her to take in what you've said, and if you teach her multi-sensory teaching, i.e. verbally and visually, she will understand that and learn it much quicker than orally. So multi-sensory teaching is a key but that doesn't happen very often in mainstream schools.

Learning does take longer and, with Jade, once it's in, it's lost as quick as it's gone in. So the only way to make her learn is repetition and repetition and repetition, and then asking her what her understanding of it is, talking about it all over again, and then you think, 'Yes! She's got it!' and then, two hours later, you ask her and she goes, "What? I don't know. What do you mean?" and you think, 'Ohh!' but, eventually, it does sink in.

Jade has a lesson and, whereas most people can have a fifty minute lesson and then they're OK to leave the lesson behind and go to another lesson and concentrate on the next one, Jade can't do that. She needs to have all her questions answered and satisfied and internalised before she moves on to the next lesson. So, for example, they gave her sex education, didn't do much one-to-one with her and expected her then to go into maths lesson and leave it alone, and all Jade wanted to do was talk about pubic hairs in maths lesson. So we had to try to say to Jade this isn't appropriate, you know.