Easy tips for students struggling in or with learning difficulties in Literacy

Reading:

- Cover the lines above and below, using white card or coloured reading slide (even wide lolly sticks)
- Use bigger font
- Try to avoid black text on white paper. Use pastel coloured paper
- Use fonts such as calabri, arial and tahoma
- Break texts down into smaller parts and give breaks
- Read WITH the child to ease anxiety
- Practice sight words with flashcards etc
- Lots of praise whenever a task or goal is completed



Writing/spelling:

- Fine motor skills activities like tracing and cutting
- Tracing laminated alphabet cards
- Breaking down large written tasks into smaller more achievable goals (eg: a paragraph or sentence at a time
- Decide on what the objective for the lesson is If it is content, be lenient on spelling
- Does the child need to copy the whole text or can they highlight a printed version or only copy key words/phrases?
- Use manipulatives for spelling such as phonic/letter cards. Children can spell out the word using the card, then write & read the word.
- Use play doh to create HFW
- Use images to create connections with words
- Lots of praise whenever a task or goal is completed





Debate

Assumes there is one right answer (and you have it)

Style is combative, attempting to prove the "other side" wrong

Listens to find flaws and counter argue

Critiques only the other position

Defends your own views at all costs

Encourages search for differences

Creates a winner/loser and discourages further conversation

Involves no focus on feelings, often actively seeking to belittle or offend

Dialogue

Assumes others have pieces of an answer and you can craft a solution together

Style is collaborative, seeks to find common understanding

Listens to understand

Critiques all views, including your own

Allows others' thinking to improve your own

Encourages search for basic agreement

Creates an open end, leaving the topic open for further discussion

Involves a real concern for the other, doesn't actively seek to alienate or offend