

Supporting Atypical Development Assignment #1

Case Study

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Prepared for:

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Mitul is a 4 year old boy, born on February 5, 2014. He was observed by the childcare professionals in his regular day care centre. After reading the observations and completing a Nippissing District Developmental Screen, I have come to the following conclusions about Mitul.

From the observations provided it can be said that Mitul appears to enjoy helping the adults in the room with daily tasks, especially around circle time. He enjoys singing songs, rhyming, labeling shapes, numbers and colours. It appears that the cognitive development in the language and literacy domain is developing at a typical rate. Mitul also has good gross motor skills and coordination and has been noted to thrive in this area when encouraged. He is successful on the playground and with unstructured activities.

Mitul does appear to have some difficulty in the areas of social skills, it was noted that he struggles with cooperative play, turn taking and sharing. He also does not attempt to comfort others when they appear upset. It has also been noted that Mitul has poorly developed fine motor skills and is not able to draw simple shapes or people, struggles to cut with scissors and holds writing objects with his fist. Mitul displays difficulty with fine motor dressing tasks, such as, buttons, zippers and laces. It has also been noted that Mitul displays some stuttering language and can be difficult to understand at times.

After review of the Nippissing District Developmental Screen, it can be seen that Mitul is not meeting the developmental milestones in 7 out of 20 areas defined in the checklist. These markers fall into the speech area, fine motor area and social area of development. I would suggest connecting the family with the following community supports: Kidsability Occupational Therapy, for fine motor concerns

Wee Talk Speech and Language-Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health, for speech development concerns

Growing Great Kids Guelph-Wellington, intake support to community agencies for social supports.

My recommendations for supports and modifications in the program would be to build on the areas of strength by adding in some gross motor, turn taking games. One game is a roll and jump game, the children take turns rolling a large die and complete the number of jumps that the die displays when landed. This can be modified with the gross motor activity, there can be large shapes, colours, numbers or letters that the children jump to, hop to, skip to, etc. This will utilize Mitul's gross motor abilities and add in some social interactions with peers during play. This same turn taking skill can be taught with board games, sitting and having children take turns playing the game, when Mitul becomes more successful with the gross motor games and turn taking. I suggest he plays with one friend at a time to lessen the wait time and allow for greater success. This can be modified by gradually adding more children as Mitul shows success and comfort with cooperating and turn taking.

Giving Mitul a job at circle time to help him develop his fine motor muscle coordination would be ideal, if possible, creating a daily schedule with small pictures that velcro to a board and having Mitul set it up and take it down each day. Pulling off the pieces and putting up the new pieces would help him to build this skill. Encouraging Mitul to work with playdough, putty or plasticine and working it through his fingers, rolling small balls and long snakes would also help to develop these muscles. Adding a pencil grip to writing tools will help refine the pincer grasp while printing, also, the use of pencil stubs or small crayons will

help with this grasp development. Setting up a cookie sheet with sand, rice or cornmeal and having him draw with his finger in the medium will help to develop fine motor drawing and pre-printing skills. A sensory bin could be set up in the classroom with shredded paper, Mitul can use scissors in the bin to cut up the paper to build fine motor muscles.

The following activities and the support from community agencies recommended will help to build the areas of concern for Mitul and allow for more success and growth.