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To Test or Not To Test – That Is the Question

By Sandy Gauvin

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Little Suzy has really been having a hard time getting some of her assignments done. When she reads in class, she struggles with many words, and her mother reported at conference time that Suzy spends hours each night on homework.

At the same time, Suzy carries on intelligent conversation, and when you ask her about what she learned from the class, she has some good feedback. She is getting excellent grades in math class and, when she does experiments in science class, she knows exactly what to do and gets great results.

You've thought about referring her for testing, wondering if a learning disability is getting in the way of her reading - a skill that underlies everything a child does in school. You know she struggles with reading, yet she does so well orally and mathematically. Should you test her?

Little Johnny can't remember his multiplication facts. Much of the time, he struggles with subtraction facts as well. His reasoning skills for determining whether he should add or subtract, multiply or divide, are faulty. And when he writes a math problem on paper, there are no columns. The numbers are all over the place. He gets very confused with the entire process as well.

But, boy, can he read. He reads books that are way above what the other students in his class read. The words in them are harder, and they are more difficult to understand.

Does he have a learning disability? Should his teacher refer him for testing?

Do either of these scenarios sound familiar? The decision regarding whether to refer a child for testing can sometimes be a difficult one to make. There are many factors to consider, not the least of which is whether the child perceives a stigma attached to the testing.

As a teacher of students with learning disabilities, teachers often consulted with me when they questioned whether or not to test. After looking at all the facts, if there was still any doubt, I would tell

them that I would rather err on the side of caution. If the child is not found to have a learning disability, at least we will discover his learning styles and how best to help him with his problem. If his does have a learning disability, we can proceed to get him the special help he needs to be more successful in school. Either way, he wins.

And who can question a win–win situation?

For more plain talk about learning disabilities, please visit us at www.ldperspectives.com.

Sandy Gauvin is a retired educator who has seen learning disabilities from many perspectives – as the

parent of a daughter with learning disabilities, as the teacher of children with learning disabilities, and as an advocate for others who have diagnosed and unrecognized learning disabilities. Sandy shares her wisdom and her resources at www.LDPerspectives.com.

CDL Practice Test - Offers practice tests to prepare for the CDL exam.

By John Lewis

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As you take CDL practice test, you do become more familiar with the CDL test, and being familiar with the test will make the actual test much less stressful.

In fact, if used correctly, CDL practice test can be an extremely targeted study tool that will precisely pinpoint the areas in which you are weakest and then help you to learn how to combat and overcome those weaknesses.

What if you take a CDL practice test and get 20 questions wrong, and your errors span a large number of different topics, from General Knowledge to Hazmat?

Well, you should take your test and study it. Identify every question you got wrong, figure out why you got it wrong, and then teach yourself what you should have done to get the

question right.

Tips for Taking CDL Practice Test

Read the question carefully before you begin eliminating answers.

Make sure you understand what you are being asked and specifically look out for the word 'NOT' in the question.

The questions in the test are not arranged in order of difficulty. So answer the questions you know first and skip the questions of which you are unsure for later.

Make sure you read through every answer even if you are sure the first or second is correct.

As you go through each answer, cross through the ones that you know are incorrect. If you have four possible answers and you can eliminate two you've increased your odds for a correct answer to 50%.

Your first guess is usually right unless you are sure you have answered incorrectly.

One method for 'guessing' is to choose the longest answer choice.

Pay close attention to the grammar of the question that it matches the answer you've chosen.

If opposite answers are given as choices, one of them is often the right answer.

– offers practice tests to prepare for the CDL exam.



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