

Are
your
child's
grades
sliding
downhill?



Contributed by Anna Hutton, Psy.D.



When sliding grades may be more than just a result of spring fever go straight to the expert, ***your child's teacher***. The importance of regular contact with all of your child's teachers cannot be emphasized enough. These professionals are with your child 35 to 40 hours a week and will have a good idea about why grades may be dropping. Teachers are perceptive and recognize when a child is having emotional problems, peer problems, or learning problems. They know if a child is truly struggling to learn new material or if grades are failing because of another reason. For example, children often fail or experience sliding grades simply because they do not turn in homework, even though they may have actually done it!

Teachers are very good at sensing the issue. If a teacher suspects that the issue is related to a learning disability, dyslexia, or poor attention, the teacher may suggest that your child be tested. A neuropsychologist, clinical psychologist, school psychologist, learning specialist or a reading specialist can do this. Other potential problems include a central auditory processing delay, which is when a child has difficulty processing auditory information. An audiologist or a speech and language specialist often does this type of evaluation. If emotional issues seem to be the root of the cause, the child may benefit from counseling with a mental health practitioner such as a psychologist, psychiatrist, social worker, or marriage and family therapist.

The most important thing is to take action. The worst thing you can do is to do nothing! If you have concerns, do not hesitate to talk to your child's teachers about the grades and your child's academic future. You'll be glad you did.

For more information on learning disabilities and neuropsychological evaluations, please contact Anna Hutton, Psy.D. at Manchester Counseling Services, 668-4079.

Anna Hutton, PsyD specializes in neuropsychological evaluations of children suffering from a variety of illnesses and disorders.

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