

Name _____

Deciphering Directions: Why Following Instructions Varies Among Kids

Short Answer Key

1. Working memory is like a mental notepad that helps us remember important information as we go about our tasks. It relates to following directions because it allows us to hold and process the steps of directions in our mind while we work.
2. A child's learning style impacts how they best absorb information. For example, visual learners understand things better when they see them, so visual directions may work best for them. Auditory learners grasp information better when they hear it, while kinesthetic learners need hands-on experiences. Adapting directions to match a child's learning style can make it easier for them to follow.
3. Strategies may include identifying the child's learning style, creating a distraction-free environment, providing clear and concise directions, offering visual aids, using positive reinforcement, and seeking specialized support if a learning disability is suspected.
4. If a child is feeling anxious, worried, or upset, their emotions may make it difficult for them to focus on following directions. For example, if they're anxious about an upcoming test, they might struggle to pay attention to the teacher's instructions for a class assignment.
5. I would offer my understanding and encouragement, let them know that having a learning disability doesn't define their abilities, and suggest seeking help from teachers or specialists who can provide tailored strategies and support. I'd also be patient and provide assistance when needed, ensuring they feel supported and capable.

