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| **MLD** | |
| **What is it?**  Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD) is a general term used to describe pupils whose attainment is much below expected levels in most areas of the curriculum, despite interventions and differentiation. They have greater difficulty than their peers in acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills and in understanding concepts. Other difficulties may include associated speech and language delay, low self-esteem, low levels of concentration and underdeveloped social skills. | |
| **Presenting Difficulties:**   1. Difficulties with basic literacy and numeracy 2. Reasoning and coordination skills may be underdeveloped 3. Poor working memory 4. Difficulties in understanding instructions 5. Short attention span and lack of concentration 6. Poor organisation skills 7. Might struggle with some social skills when interacting with their peers 8. Low self-esteem 9. Difficulties with making links between different areas of learning and generalising to everyday experience 10. Poor behaviour, such as getting upset or angry easily, disrupting the class to avoid learning | **10 Top Tips:**   1. **Use differentiated worksheets, word banks, writing frames, lots of visual aids.** 2. **Break down tasks into bitesize chunks with plenty of opportunities for reinforcement.** 3. **Give them additional time to process information, give 1 or 2 instructions at a time, write instructions on the board/task board/post-it notes. Allow extra time to complete tasks and tests.** 4. **Check their understanding of instructions, repeat if necessary.** 5. **Include tasks and goals that are achievable and realistic for the pupils, as well as the more challenging ones. This will build their confidence and the feeling of success and progress.** 6. **Provide clear visual cues such as a timer, use graphic organisers/mind maps, checklists.** 7. **Try and facilitate social interactions between like-minded students in your class. Set up a buddy system to help encourage students with MLD to develop social skills.** 8. **Improve self-esteem by building on pupils’ strengths and interests.** 9. **Praise them for their effort, catch them doing something good.** 10. **Use some sensory-driven strategies, like a sensory break in between learning activities.** |
| **Strengths:**   * Sense of fairness and honesty * High levels of empathy * Respond well to visual support | **Links for extra information and resources:**  [Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) - London Grid for Learning (lgfl.net)](https://www.lgfl.net/inclusion/need/MLD)  [handouts3.pdf (ioe.ac.uk)](https://dera.ioe.ac.uk/13820/2/handouts3.pdf)  [Differentiation strategies: a teacher's guide (structural-learning.com)](https://www.structural-learning.com/post/differentiation-strategies-a-teachers-guide) |