

# They Can't All Have A.D.D!



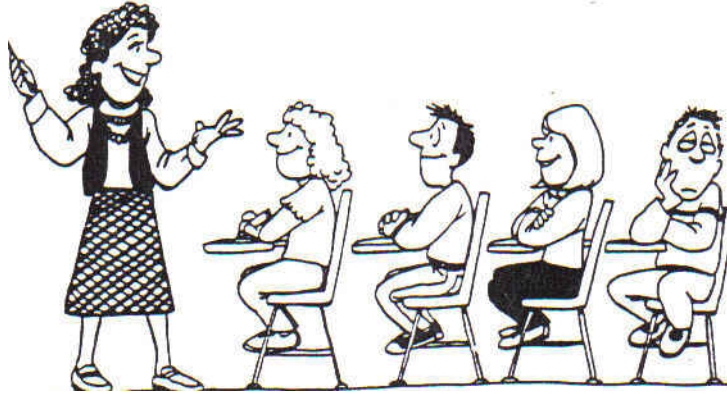
## *A Practical Look At Why Students Struggle in School*

by

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## Why Is It That Even Good Students Often Hate School?



### 3 Good Reasons:

#### We're Focusing on the Wrong Customer

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If the formal process of education is mostly a dreaded chore to be done or is tantamount to a prison sentence to be served, why should we be surprised when each successive generation becomes less and less interested in applying themselves to the task of learning? How can we justify making children suffer a boring and sometimes even painful educational experience if the end result is that they never want to learn again? (*I Hate School*, p. 13)

#### We're Not Challenging Students to Use Their Strengths

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If our goal is to help every child succeed—and I believe it should be—then we must...help each and every child discover his or her own natural learning strengths and use those strengths to overcome limitations and achieve success—even if those strengths are at odds with traditional classroom demands. (*I Hate School*, p. 147)

#### We're Confusing Tests With Accountability

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As adults, we can...use our intuitive, entrepreneurial, creative instincts. But there aren't many tests in school that measure those things. Accountability should never be sacrificed. Sometimes a paper-and-pencil test is the best form of accountability. Sometimes it's the worst. The most important question to ask is a familiar one: *What's the Point?* (*I Hate School*, p. 122)

**In the end, if we can teach our students how to learn what we're teaching them, we are sending them out into the world as lifelong learners, not just students who figured out how to survive until they could escape.**

*(I Hate School, p. 89)*

## The Formula for a Student's Success:

### **Part One: Know Your Strengths**

Physical Environment

Modalities—Auditory, Visual, Kinesthetic

Cognitive Style—Analytic, Global

### **Part Two: Figure Out What You Need to Succeed**

What helps you concentrate?

What do you need in order to remember information?

How does your mind organize and make decisions?

What motivates you to do what you don't want to do?

### **Part Three: Be Ready to Prove It Works**

It's a simple and powerful message:

**Don't expect or wait for the system to accommodate you—the only way it's ever going to change is if *you* prove what actually works.**

**No excuses! You can survive and thrive in school even if no one changes but you. You have the choice to give up—or prove you never have to be daunted or conquered.**

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