



education review // reseñas educativas

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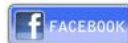
a multi-lingual journal of book reviews

July 12, 2011

ISSN 1094-5296

Education Review/Reseñas Educativas is a project of the National Education Policy Center <http://nepc.colorado.edu>

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Naparstek, Nathan. (2010) *Learning Solutions: What to Do If Your Child Has Trouble With Schoolwork*. Charlotte, North Carolina.: Information Age Publishing.

Pp. 141 ISBN

Reviewed by Peter R. Dean

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Parents whose children have been diagnosed with learning difficulties but don't know how to get their children help in the public school system will find *Learning Solutions* an empowering reading experience.

Author Nathan Naparstek, a social psychologist for the Schenectady School District, urges parents to take a proactive role in advocating—and then participating—in their child's educational support system. And he does this because of his assertion that children without access to a professional private tutor can't rely on ineffective school based remedial or special education programs.

But Naparstek, who states that most learning difficulties are related to reading skills, states that most parents can serve as effective tutors if they receive the proper

Citation: Dean, Peter R. (2011 July 12) Review of *Learning Solutions* by Nathan Naparstek. *Education Review*, 14. Retrieved [Date] from <http://www.edrev.info/reviews/rev1105.pdf>

instruction themselves. Naparstek also gives parents detailed guidance on how to be effective tutors—everything from how to motivate one's child to relaxation strategies that can be used with school children.

Naparstek also writes extensively about the school child's classroom teacher, asserting that the teacher is the most important school staff member in the school child's life. Naparstek's book has step-by-step procedures for how to deal with unresponsive teachers, as well as how to navigate services offered for children with learning problems.

Although Naparstek rarely mentions private school education, much of his guidance is most likely applicable to parents of children in private or parochial school, as much of the book focuses on the communication between parents, teachers and the school children themselves. He also writes that school principals and psychologists can have an impact on your child's life in school. Most public and private school have access to school psychologists, who can be helpful in providing suggestions for getting your child to where he/she is reading as well as his/her classmates.

Naparstek warns, though, that if a child's school principal is unable to persuade the classroom teacher to change classroom procedures, there's not much else that can be done to change your child's learning situation. Though dealing with a child's learning situation may seem overwhelming, Naparstek notes that children who are intellectually "impaired" can still be successful in school—but the children will have to work diligently to compensate for the skill deficits. This book is an excellent resource that can in achieving that goal.

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