

3 Signs Your Child Is on the Wrong Curricular Path

(And what to do about each one.)

1 Your child is 10 or older, and the gap with same-age peers isn't closing.

At six, a two-year delay is a two-year delay. At twelve it is a different thing entirely, because the peers are moving too — the gap widens even in a year your child made real progress. Put last year's goals next to this year's. If they're the same goals with bigger numbers, the plan is still betting on catching up. That bet has a deadline.

WHAT TO DO → SAY THIS

"My child is turning [age]. Is this plan still trying to close the academic gap, or is it building the skills he'll actually use as an adult?"

2 Their academic level and their adaptive level aren't in the same universe.

Sixth-grade math and kindergarten hygiene. A child who can multiply fractions and cannot shower without being walked through it. When those two numbers are that far apart, the plan is investing where progress is easy to measure instead of where the life is.

WHAT TO DO → SAY THIS

"Can we look at the adaptive assessment next to the academic one? I want both numbers on the table at the same time."

3 Nobody has ever told you which path your child is on — because it was never decided out loud.

There are two. A developmental path, aimed at grade-level academics. An adaptive path, aimed at independent adult functioning. Every child is on one of them. Most families are never told which, because nobody ever said it in a meeting — it happened quietly, one goal at a time, usually chosen by whichever assessment tool the team already owned.

WHAT TO DO → SAY THIS

"Which curricular path is my child on — developmental or adaptive? I'd like it named, and I'd like it in the notes."

THE FULL METHOD IS IN THE BOOK.

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