

Discussion Questions for Consultation Case Study

It is the beginning of the school year and Jorge is well behind the rest of the class in reading. Jorge's parents are from Mexico and have been living in CA for 3 years. They plan to stay here permanently. Jorge has three older brothers and one younger sister. Jorge is struggling in school, particularly with reading. He is generally an attentive student in class but sometimes is more active than the teacher would like. He likes to have fun and often plays silly games with his friends. Jorge's older brothers are performing within the average range for their classroom but below what is considered basic on state proficiency tests in Language Arts and Mathematics. Jorge's younger sister just started first grade and is doing well. The school is 60% Hispanic and the Free and Reduced Lunch rate is 80%. The school has not improved its API scores in reading and is in danger of state intervention. They have made good improvements in math. Jorge's teacher is in her second year of teaching and is feeling somewhat overwhelmed but the needs of the children. She does not speak Spanish. She feels that it is important for the children to have their basic needs met prior to learning academics. Therefore, she spends a good deal of time on helping the children develop positive self images. She is using a state adopted curriculum in reading but is unsure what to do with children who are not able to work in the third grade curriculum.

1. To what extent do you feel that this consultation will be collaborative and to what extent do you think a more directive approach will be needed? _____

2. What do you think will be the essential elements of a collaborative consultation relationship with this teacher? _____

3. As a consultant what are your goals for working with this teacher? _____

4. What do you think are the important consultant skills and abilities for working with this teacher? _____

5. Discuss how you think the problem solving process might unfold for this case study. _____
