



Is Your Child “Lazy?”

Students who might be thought of as “lazy” learners may, in fact, be simply recalling only what they can.

-Jensen, Eric. (2000) *Brain-Based Learning*. San Diego, CA: The Brain Store, p.220.

Joseph hired a contractor to build his house. He provided lumber, windows and doors—but no nails.

“I can’t build this house for you,” the contractor said.

“Why not?” asked Joseph. “You must be lazy!”

We have heard some dads say, “My child is lazy!” We suspect that some moms also think this—even though they may not say it.

Do you find yourself wondering this? The truth is, when your child’s behavior seems lazy, 99% of the time he is showing you his *brain glitches*. (And we all have them!) His lack of work is not “willful”—it’s due to a lack of brain skills!

A child is often accused of being “lazy” when he cannot quickly store or recall key information. You know that your child is smart, but he doesn’t read or write at grade level. And, he probably doesn’t read for pleasure.

The reality is your child is simply working the best he can right now. His brain has not yet learned important bits of information to rapid speeds, to automaticity.

Maybe your child’s reading sounds choppy, he writes slowly, or he doesn’t remember that $6+6=12$. (Or, some days he remembers, and other days he forgets. Inconsistency is the hallmark of brain glitches.)

Most likely, your child’s brain is not quickly recalling information because his brain never got the amount of practice it required. This could be due to a teacher covering new material too quickly for it to “sink in,” or his class size is too big, or his brain has inherited glitches similar to a relative you know.

As parents, we need to become more aware of what our child's abilities are, instead of focusing on what we "think they should be."

Your child is every bit as frustrated as you are. And to top it off, he's probably being told he is "lazy."

A brain's first job is survival. And survival means to save face. Your child may act out to avoid his homework. That is a lot easier on his brain than showing himself, and you, he can't do it.

Your child's lack of work is not willful—it's a lack of brain skills!

Worse than that, your child's brain is losing hope of ever succeeding in school. "Mentally" he opts out. It's how his brain deals with the daily shame he feels. Your child can't enjoy feeling smart, like his classmates. He can't make you proud, like his brother or sister.

So when a parent says, "My child is lazy!", we say, "Oops! That's a four-letter word! We *never* say that word."

Remember, your child probably works harder than anyone else in his class—and for worse grades. Give your child the "nails" to build strong brain skills. He's not l-a-z-y. He is missing some key tools to build his house.



Don't add shame to your child's brain glitches. Instead, provide him with the brain-tools he needs to build his life.