**Case Study – Jose (Intellectual Disability)**

Jose has Down’s syndrome and a moderate intellectual disability, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and has asthma and a mild congenital heart condition. He has taken many different medications. Currently he is taking one for his asthma.

Jose is the only child at home and is much loved by his mother and stepfather. An older brother died of cancer. Jose’s parents do not allow him to be out of the home unsupervised and since they both work, he does not often play in the neighborhood or hang out with others his age. His parents have a realistic picture of him although they feel that the behavioral difficulties he experiences are largely due to his lack of opportunities to interact with other kids.

In class, Jose works conscientiously on his assignments although since he was taken off stimulant medication, the length of time he can focus has diminished. He is able to perform rote tasks such as computation or written work but is not at grade level. He is significantly challenged by abstract, inferential, or critical thinking tasks, although he at times surprises hist teachers and peers with his insights when he has lived experience with the topic. For instance, when reading a book that described racial discrimination, Jose made connections to his own experiences both as a member of a minority culture and as a person with a visible disability. He commented that “people don’t like people who are different.”

Jose has always had behavioral difficulties at unstructured times. Jose’s interactions with the other students concern staff: Jose annoys other students who are not bothering him. For example, he’ll turn to a peer doing her work and say, “No copy me” in an aggressive sounding voice. Or he’ll lightly jab his pencil into the student near him until he gets a reaction.

However, of greatest concern is his behavior out of class time (recess/lunch). When he feels that other students have broken a rule (whether or not it affects him) or are being mean to him, he will kick, bite, punch, or slap. After an incident, he cries and generally falls apart for about 15 minutes. This behavior occurs daily.