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Case Study: Multiple perspectives on educating a student with a learning disability
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The case study addresses all aspects of the education of a 6th grade elementary school student who had been diagnosed with a learning disability (LD) at a very young age. In order to gather comprehensive information about the unique educational needs, challenges, issues, daily social and academic experiences of the target LD student, multiple interviews were conducted with the student, his parent, the special education teacher, and an advocacy organization that represents and provides services for individuals with learning disabilities. Descriptions of an observation of the annual case conference for the 6th grade student with LD are also discussed.

This case study is an informative approach into the understanding of LD and a first-hand account from multiple informants (a student with LD, his parent, special education teacher, and an advocacy organization). The case study took place over the course of two weeks in which the presenter interviewed four individuals using different questionnaires (student, teacher, parent, and advocacy agency questionnaires) provided in EDUC K505: Introduction to Special Education for Graduate Students (Instructor: Dr. Jeong-il Cho). The research methodology used for this case study was qualitative including interviews, an observation, and reviews of secondary data.

After all of the initial research was completed (i.e. interviews, case conferences, etc.) in Spring 2010, the presenter learned that the field of special education is not an easy field in which to work. There are many more elements to the education of a special education student than there are to the education of a student who is in general education. There are more supports that are needed to educate the student with LD. Those supports are necessary for the student to make progress each year without regression. The presenter has learned that such supports start at home. Without the support of the parent(s) or caregiver(s), the child can get lost in the system of education. Ultimately, everyone who is involved in that particular student's life has to make a concerted effort (i.e. including the student) to promoting student learning. As a future educator of students with disabilities, the past three weeks have been very educational and a true learning experience for the presenter.