

Joe is a 17 year old junior with Emotional Disturbance who is behind on some credits. He has had two residential placements last year due to suicidal attempts and has recently just returned from treatment after Christmas. His anxiety and depression make it difficult for him to function during the day. The majority of the time he is unable to attend school so works independently at home. He is able to carry As and B's in most of his classes with this arrangement. However, at this point he only has 8 credits. Math is the class that he struggles the most in. Both computation and application are difficult for Joe.

Joe only has one friend he 'hangs' with occasionally. Because he spends most of his time at home, he is also lacking in social skills. Social maturity and developing relationships are lacking. Simple things such as calling for a hair-cut appointment or shopping for groceries are hard for him to do. Also, he doesn't have a good sense of prices of items and how to rent an apartment. He isn't involved in any activities at school or in the community. He does enjoy music and is learning to play guitar.

He is easily distracted and becomes frustrated if classroom is chaotic/noisy. When frustrated or anxious, he will close his book and put his head down. At times, he may ask to go to a quiet place. He fears any type of interaction with the teacher in fear that it may be criticism. He strives to do everything 'perfect' so he doesn't attract any negative attention.

Joe doesn't have any work experience. He has had no practice with completing job application forms and he said he becomes very anxious at the thought of having a job interview. At home, he occasionally will help out with household chores. He can cook some simple meals.

Parents/family – His mom is worried that Joe will always need to live at home because of his anxiety. As far as cooking/cleaning – he will survive and not go ‘hungry’! However, as she says, there is more to life than this. She is glad that he has developed an interest in playing the guitar. Joe is very kind to his younger brother.

Strengths-Joe has good reading skills and comprehension. He is a good conversationalist when he feels comfortable with the person he is around. He tends to his personal hygiene and always looks very nice when he is out in public.

Preferences-Joe prefers to be in small groups. He also prefers a quieter environment. The only time he likes loud is when he is playing his music. He prefers to not be questioned as to why he is doing something. He says he feels that teachers always ‘talk down’ to him and he would prefer that he was talked to as an adult.

Interests – Joe has a strong interest in music and will generally always have some type playing in his room. He received a guitar for Christmas and has recently started to learn to play it. He is teaching himself. He does have an ‘interest’ in cooking as when he does cook, he likes to ‘try’ out his ‘own’ recipes!

He, wants to be a counselor, but isn’t real sure about this career and attending college. He feels he could do the online courses but not sure about being on campus. Joe needs to become aware of careers so he can make some decisions about his life.