

## II. Aim of remedial teaching

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The objective of remedial teaching is to give additional help to pupils who, for one reason or another, have fallen behind the rest of the class in the subjects of Chinese, English and Mathematics.

Children with learning difficulties have the same psychological needs and characteristics as other children. Some of them, however, may be less able to organize their perceptions or to comprehend abstract ideas and concepts. Some may have poor memory, poor level of motivation, short span of attention in work situations or associated behavioural problems. Above all, owing to encounters of failure they tend to have low expectations of themselves and, having rarely distinguished themselves at school, also have low aspirations.

It must also be noted that most of the learning difficulties pupils in remedial classes encounter may not be within the child, but are relative to the context where the learning is taking place, such as the family background of the child, the physical and learning environment of the school, and the pupils' peer groups. Once we understand this, we will begin to view our pupils from a different perspective and try to accept their learning difficulties as a transient and soluble problem. We will begin to see our pupils as children who can be taught and helped to overcome their learning difficulties.

It is essential for a remedial teacher to understand thoroughly the strengths and weaknesses of their pupils so that appropriate teaching approaches can be adopted to meet their individual needs. Although these pupils are low academic achievers, they are not necessarily limited in abilities or that their attainment will remain permanently low. With proper remedial help, the use of stimulating teaching strategies, and closer supervision and more individual attention, these pupils' interest in learning will be aroused and they would make better progress.

The ultimate aim of remedial teaching is to help pupils who have fallen behind to learn to the best of their ability and to bring them back into the mainstream classes as far as possible.