



Case Study

Dr. Hayley van Zwanenberg



A REAL AND LASTING DIFFERENCE FOR EVERYONE WE SUPPORT

11 year old girl. Always been quirky. Had her own intense interest in animals. Likes pretending to be an animal and spends more time looking after the school pigs rather than with peers. Teachers get irritated as she never seems to listen but she does fairly well academically. She does get very unsettled at the start of each academic year and at times will even rock back and forth and make unusual noises, but generally she settles more in term 2 and term 3 is always her best term.

She has hit peers in class a few times over the years and you have never really understood why. It is sometimes about sharing and sometimes about her seat in class and sometimes seems to be for no reason. You always see her biting her arm when the fire alarm goes off and she is very difficult to manage if there is a supply teacher.

Her parents have previously raised concerns at school that she does not get invited to social occasions and that at home all she wants to do is sit in her room on computer games or planning her future in detailed lists which involves owning her own pig farm.

Friends have noticed she smells and often her hair is slightly greasy. However, she often tells others their breath smells which upsets peers.

She has to move to her new school soon and has had a transition day. Recently she has come into school with several large bruises on her forehead and some of her hair missing at the front.

- Might she have a mental illness or disorder?
- Could early signs have been detected?
- What conversations could have been had with parents/professionals?
- Should adaptations have been put in place in school?
- Do you make a safeguarding referral?
- How will you help this young girl now?