



CALEB WELIN

GRADE 4

Caleb enjoys:

- Games of chase
- Making his friends laugh
- Neutral or positive tones of voice
- Hands on activities
- Animals
- Using computers & his iPad
- Sports
- Traveling by airplane
- Cooking
- Typical boy things, anything dirty or gross (bugs, worms, snakes, spiders, etc.)

Caleb does not enjoy:

- Sudden or loud noises
- Being put on the spot
- Angry or sad tones of voice

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Caleb has fragile X syndrome. There are certain characteristics of fragile X that affect how Caleb behaves, how he interacts with others and how he learns. It is important to always look at Caleb's challenges through a fragile X lens when considering lesson plans or other interventions.

Caleb is a very social boy. He loves to laugh and to make others laugh as well. Using Caleb's social connections, especially to his favored peers, is always beneficial. Caleb has a group of very good friends who are able to push him to do things that adults may not be able to do. Use this strength.

Keep in mind that this strength can also be a weakness. If he misbehaves and anyone laughs or smiles, that will reinforce the behavior¹.

Caleb is very literal and very quick. He will find ways to do what he wants while still technically following your instructions. Always give him a chance to complete the task the way you expected him to do so because...

Caleb is very good at reading people and discovering exactly how much he can get away with². It is very important that there be consistent expectations across all parts of his life. If you see new negative behaviors it is important to discuss them with the entire team early.

Caleb is a terrific imitator. It is why we want him to spend as much time with his typical peers as possible, he learns by watching. It is important to think about what Caleb is seeing however, he will imitate negative behaviors just as quickly.

Caleb enjoys helping others. Giving him a job and some independence are really motivating.



The most pronounced difficulty that Caleb experiences is anxiety. Transitions from activity to activity or from place to place, even when he knows what comes next, are challenging. Providing a verbal schedule (first, then) is very helpful to him. He has a tremendous memory.

Caleb needs to know that each activity has a beginning and an ending, and he always needs to know what happens next. Whenever possible, provide a completed sample of a project that Caleb will be working on or other visual cues that show his progress.

Our goals for Caleb are unchanged from when he was born, before we knew he had fragile X. We expect him to grow up to be independent, to contribute to his community and to support himself. How we get there may need to change at times but please don't ever lose sight of those goals. He is our everything, and you will soon see exactly why!

¹ We wish you the best of luck with this because he is hysterically naughty at times. Everyone laughs at something inappropriate sooner or later and he **will** catch you.

² He has convinced speech therapists that he cannot speak above a whisper!

TEACHER TIPS

Caleb uses the following programs:

- Handwriting Without Tears (workbook and iPad app)
- Tux Type for keyboarding practice
- Magnetic ABC app for spelling
- Edmark Reading Program for sight word reading, comprehension, and fluency instruction
- TouchChat app for supplementing speech.

Caleb enjoys:

- Field trips (particularly ones that are outdoors)
- Science class/topics
- Jokes, especially corny ones
- Playing any game involving a ball
- Deep pressure/hugs

Caleb does not enjoy:

- Light touches
- Unexpected transitions/changes in schedule
- Loud crowded areas

Caleb is one of the sweetest and gentlest boys you'll have the pleasure to work with! He has incredible strengths, abilities and endless potential. He loves school and his friends, and is a hard worker. Caleb is a tremendous helper and has many independent routines and activities he completes throughout the day. He is smart and funny and loves to make others laugh. The following are some tips to keep in mind when working with Caleb during the school day.

- Caleb is compliant with most requests, he will occasionally try to ignore you or say "no." He may even try to "volunteer" a friend to do the task instead. Don't be fooled! Caleb is likely very capable of completing the task you are asking him to do.
- Caleb is very independent and likes to show others what he can do. He should always be given the opportunity to independently do something before given supports.
- Caleb responds best to a low, even tone of voice. He can get anxious when voices become raised or too high.
- He is very good at reading facial expressions and is able to identify the mood/feelings of others. When other students are upset or crying, he too will often become upset.
- Caleb has an ever growing vocabulary and communicates verbally in phrases and sentences. He also knows a great deal of sign language.
- When Caleb is anxious, his vocal stereotypy will increase. It is best to ignore this behavior, re-direct him, and continue with the activity/task. Drawing attention to it will increase the behavior.
- Caleb has an excellent memory and retains skills best with a great deal of repetition and practice.
- One of Caleb's greatest academic strengths is in reading. He should be given daily opportunities to practice his fluency and comprehension skills.
- Math is an area that is harder for Caleb but he enjoys hands-on activities that are relatable to everyday life.
- Caleb does best with 1:1 instruction, but can be paired with another student for work sessions.
- He enjoys completing chores during the day. Examples are: setting up for snack, cleaning tables, taking out recycling bins, and checking for mail in the office.
- Caleb enjoys specialist classes, especially physical education, library, and technology. He often needs minimal staff support in these settings.
- He can independently follow a 2-3 picture/word schedule for leisure. Some preferred classroom leisure activities include: using the computer (PBS Kids), Legos, bouncing on a therapy ball, tossing bean bags, playing with cars, playing Go Fish and Connect 4.
- Caleb loves to eat and often needs reminders to "slow down" and take "one bite at a time" when eating meals.
- Caleb is independent in the bathroom, but may need reminders to close the door or fix his clothing when he is finished.
- Caleb enjoys deep pressure and receives a great deal of input when completing "heavy work" tasks. Tasks should be built into his daily routine.
- He loves his friends and they are a positive influence but they too need reminders of appropriate ways to help Caleb be successful in inclusive settings.
- Inclusion is important for Caleb to be successful and happy. Opportunities for inclusion and reverse inclusion provide him with the positive social supports he needs to continue to make progress.