



# 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

### Contact Info:

Eric Welin  
[ewelin@welsolutions.com](mailto:ewelin@welsolutions.com)  
(603) 759-5151

Melissa Welin  
[melissawelin@gmail.com](mailto:melissawelin@gmail.com)  
(603) 759-8379

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 behavior <sup>1</sup>.

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 with<sup>2</sup>. 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!

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> He has convinced speech therapists that he cannot speak above a whisper!

# TEACHER TIPS