



Revision Strategies for youngsters who have an ABI

As the dreaded GCSEs loom, parents want to support their young people who probably need to relearn, rather than revise, what has been taught in school. There are a number of strategies which have been found to be successful. You will need to pick and choose, as every youngster with an ABI is different and therefore not all of these will be suitable.

- ✚ CGP revision guides for the subject can be very powerful as they are highly visual and define terms carefully.
- ✚ Have a routine time for revision, e.g. after tea, set a limit on what you will do, and stick to it.
- ✚ Share the revision session with a friend - this works well if an adult leads the session, but tends not to work if you leave the youngsters to their own devices!
- ✚ Get the youngster to tell you about the topic, perhaps while looking at his exercise book, the text or the CGP book, and you take notes
- ✚ Ask the youngster to think of questions which you (the adult or parent) has to answer. This forces them to think about the important aspects of the topic.
- ✚ Make the youngster into the teacher and you into the pupil - it may be that they know more about the topic than you do anyway.
- ✚ Share in finding out about something
- ✚ Use online resources - often schools will suggest up to date websites which serve their subjects.
- ✚ Videos or short YouTube clips can be powerful in helping to support the long term memory
- ✚ Past papers are vital - train your child to look at the number of marks for each section of the paper and check if they have done enough to get them. This is easier in Maths, Science and humanities subjects than it is in English.

The whole of Y11 can be a nightmare if all you do together is revise. It is really important at this time to keep open the communications channels with your child and to have some good times and treats. You may like to think:

- What is there to look forward to,
 - in the short term when revision is finished for the day
 - in the longer term when the exams are finished
- Who is responsible for the learning?

If you are responsible your child will not learn the joy of achieving, nor the discipline of aiming for a target. My strong advice for any homework is not to nag, but make the youngster answerable to their teacher who has set the task.