

Approaching the Struggling Learner

FacDev in 5 KEY TAKEAWAYS



Watch the FacDev in 5 Video
featuring Dr. Melver Anderson,
Professor of Medicine.
tinyurl.com/FD5-StrugglingLearner

KEY TAKEAWAYS



Use the strategies below to provide support to help learners succeed.

1

Gather Objective Data

Collect information from multiple sources—observations, exams, and faculty feedback—and base concerns on objective evidence rather than subjective impressions.

2

Build Trust and Set Expectations

Build trust with learners through clear communication of goals, expectations, and feedback procedures.

3

Understand the Learner's Mindset

Promote a growth mindset by highlighting ongoing development and sharing personal experiences of self-driven learning.

4

Identify the Root Cause

Pinpoint whether issues arise from knowledge, reasoning, communication, or professionalism, and address them with the learner.

5

Assess Wellness and Life Circumstances

Check in on learners' wellness, acknowledge external stressors, and show empathy to build trust and support effective learning.



DIVE DEEPER

Boileau, E., et. al. Is there a way for clinical teachers to assist struggling learners? A synthetic review of the literature. (Adv Med Educ Pract 2017).

Chou, C., et al. Guidelines: The dos, don'ts and don't knows of remediation in medical education (Perspect Med Educ 2019).

Deema Al-Sheikhly, D., et al. Remediation of learners struggling with communication skills: a systematic review (BMC Med Educ 2020).

