How Teachers Can Help Me:	
A Book By	
(Name)	

School-based Behavioral Health Program
Department of Psychology in Education
School of Education
University of Pittsburgh

This guide was developed by graduate students in PSY ED 2113 during the fall of 2008. Elizabeth Steele edited the guide, and we are grateful for her efforts.

This guide is based in part on a similar guide developed by Dr. Sue Perfetti and the Apollo-Ridge School District. We thank them for helping us understand the importance of students identifying strategies to help themselves in school.

Permission to reproduce is granted only for educational and non-commercial purposes. Otherwise, please contact mmkerr@pitt.edu.

IN THE CLASSROOM

When I first get to class:

]	I might need more time getting started on my work.
1	Help me get involved in activities that I may seem disinterested in.
	Ask me how my morning has been and let me go speak with my counselor if I need to.
]	Have me sit close to the front of the classroom to keep my attention.
(Check to make sure I am prepared. Do I have the materials required?
(Greet me pleasantly. Help me get my day started off nicely.
]	have an extremely hard time with separationsit is one of the toughest parts of my day!
1	Please don't rush me to say my goodbyes!
	Understand that I will probably try to keep my family from leavingoffer reassurance that I will see
1	my loved ones again soon.
]	Encourage me to try to have positive interactions with my peers.
(Greet me and tell me what to do first.
1	Let me keep something at my desk that makes me feel better (i.e. a picture of my family, a small stuffed
animal,	etc.)
1	Remind me what we did last time.
	Гell me what I will learn.
1	Remind me of the rules and our agreed-upon consequences.
(Give me only a few directions at a time.
]	Post what will be happening today.
]	Let me sit next to a friend that will help me get started.
	Give me a signal if I am doing well at the beginning of class.
]	Put a note on my desk telling me what I will need to do this morning.
	Clarify the rules of the class and the school (ex: no fight, respect others, or no dangerous tools)
	Post the rules on walls or other place that I can easily to see them
	Assign routine simple work for me to help the classroom (ex: water plants every day)
	Tell me what we're doing today.
	Have the rules in a place where I can see them.
	Remind me of rewards and consequences.
(Give me time to get into the classroom and warm up to you
	Allow me to do my usual routine.
1	Have patience with me as I may take a little longer to get situated.
]	If you see me doing a ritual, please show me our special sign, which will remind me to stop.
1	Remind me of class expectations
	Assist me with setting up my desk and area
(Offer me duties to occupy my time in the morning
1	Let me know the schedule/routine for the day and tell me about any schedule changes.
	Ask if there is anything I need and how I am feeling that day
]	Let me play at my desk until everyone else is ready to start
I	Have a set routine I can expect to have happen every day.
	Гell me the expectations, rules, and consequences so I am prepared.

	_Make sure I am not around a lot of students unless there is an adult nearby.
	_Make sure they are the same rules every day so I know what to expect.
	_ Give me some time to adjust slowly.
	Bring me into an activity that you know I like to focus on.
	_ Have the agenda on the board or a "To Do" list
Whe	n I have to remember stuff:
	_ Put a reminder on the board for homework, quizzes, and tests.
	_ Assign me a homework/test buddy (one of my friends) that can remind me about work after school.
	_ Write it down in my assignment notebook.
	_ Have me repeat the directions back to you to make sure I understand.
	_ Provide me with my own set of directions.
	Please be concise. It is difficult for me to take in a lot of information at once.
	_ Let me know what I should bring to class.
	_ Help me write down my assignments in an assignment notebook.
	_ Help me put my assignments in color-coded folders.
	_ Use pictures to remind me of things.
	Remind the entire class once before the class is over, so I will not be singled out.
	_ When I remember my things, remind me that I did something well.
	_ Write down the stuff on the blackboard and ask me to jot down in my notebook.
	Remind me again at the end of the day (before I go home).
	_ Ask my parents to check and sign my notebook every day, so they can remind me if I forgot something.
	_ Allow me to read aloud the stuff repeatedly.
	Give me a checklist.
	Give me reminders.
	_ Check my parent log.
	_ Speak slowly and clearly.
	_ Make sure I am paying attention (making eye contact).
	Break things down into steps as much as possible.
	_ If I begin to get overwhelmed, allow me to take a break.
	_ Make a list for me before I leave class for the materials I will need for tomorrow's class.
	_ Verbally remind me before I leave class what I will need for tomorrow.
	_ When I forget things, I become very upset, allow me to work through it.
	Offer me a pencil and paper to write it down.
	_ Try to ask me questions pertaining to what I need to remember throughout the day.
	_ Offer a goal (such as remembering one or two things) and encourage me to meet it with an incentive.
	_ When I am taking time away in the hallway, try to focus my attention on remembering the items.
	_ If I forget items I need for class, just give me the things I would need to avoid conflict.
	You may need to remind me to write down my assignments.
	_ Show me how to make a to-do list for my homework.
	_ Give me a folder that I can use to keep track of what I need to remember.
_	_ When I need to study, let me and a buddy work together to remember things. _ Remind me to prioritize my responsibilities as a student.
	_ Help me realize what are some of my more immediate responsibilities and what can wait a few reeks.