

Williams Syndrome is a very complex disorder. I think that in the article "Different Minds" by Robert Finn, the complexities of Williams Syndrome are summarised best when he writes, "As educational psychologist Eleanor Semel says, 'Educators are confused because the Williams syndrome child tests like the retarded child, talks like a gifted child, behaves like a disturbed child, and functions like a learning-disabled child.'" It must be frustrating to study Williams Syndrome because it appears that once you are able to come to a conclusion about the disorder, something that doesn't fit comes up to disprove it. I can imagine it would also be frustrating for an educator who deals with children with Williams Syndrome. A child with Williams Syndrome can make so much progress in one area like vocabulary or writing, but when they move to math it's like a completely different mind. What I think is the best part of the disorder is the social aspect. The fact that people with Williams Syndrome are aware of their disorder but yet are characteristically outgoing and not shy is fascinating. I would think that in a "normal" case someone aware of their disorder would be ashamed or nervous to go out in public. I think it's great that people with Williams Syndrome don't have that hindrance.