To productivity commission, 23 Jan 2020

I have 7 years training as a doctor and 9 years of teaching experience, teaching 4 y/o up to 16 y/o students. From my experience dealing with children, I have seen many difficulties that those children ran into. Emotional reactions definitely occurred periodically. The way that dealt with these things was generally communication to find out what they were having difficulty with. Most of them were confused or didn’t know what was going on. Once you guided them gently to bring understanding, they would just chill out.

I don’t think it is necessary to do social or emotional check on young people. They are not up to communicating their troubles as they are still learning, still trying to understand the world. Doing such checks will open the door to inaccurate and arbitrary diagnosis and labelling that could stick with the person for life, especially if they are given some sort of “treatment” based on the result of such checks.

Yours sincerely,

Sue Chung

Medical school graduate & teacher