

Why do poor children often underachieve?

Material poverty

Material poverty means being poor. You do not have the necessary things you need for a good life.

Some children who are poor do not do as well as they might in school because they do not have the advantages that richer children have.

Working class children, Born to Fail?

Two writers known as Wedge and Prosser, wrote a book known as ***Born to Fail***.

In it they said that working class children with fathers employed as manual workers (class 3-5) could not do as well at school as children from middle class (class 1-2) backgrounds because they suffered the effects of **poverty** (being poor).

Here is a simple list of ideas to explain why being poor might mean that you do less well in school:

Families in classes 3,4 and 5 (working class) tend to be larger.

Suggest two reasons why children from large families do not do as well in school as those from small families.

1.	
2.	

Working class families tend to be poorer.

Suggest two ways in which richer parents can help their children do better.

1.	
2.	

The housing of many working class families is poorer.

Suggest two ways in which better housing may help children do better in school.

1.	
2.	

Many working class children live in poorer areas.

Suggest two ways in which schools in poorer areas may be less effective than schools in richer areas of town.

1.	
2.	

Many children from the working class may have less adult time spent on them.

Suggest two reasons why poorer parents may find it difficult to spend time with their children helping them.

1.	
2.	

Poorer children have health problems

Suggest two reasons why poor children have worse health than richer children.

1.	
2.	

*** Middle class parents can work the system**

Suggest two ways in which richer parents can help their children do better.

1.	
2.	

Imagine that you and your friend are exactly identical in ability except that one is from a rich family and one is from a poor family. How would each of you attempt to solve the following problems that have arisen in school?

- You are having serious problems in mathematics.

rich	
poor	

- You are not able to concentrate on your homework.

rich	
poor	

- Your teacher does not seem to like you very much.

rich	
poor	