

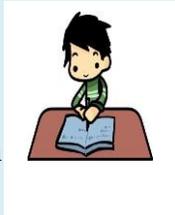
Learning Disabilities

Special Needs Resource and Training Blog

Fact Sheet #2

What is a Learning Disability?

A learning disability is defined as a neurological-based processing, which interferes with learning basic skills including reading, writing or math. Higher level skills such as organizational skills, abstract reasoning and long-term memory are also affected.



What are the signs and symptoms of a learning disorder?

- Problems with math
- Trouble telling time
- Poor memory
- Weak visual discrimination abilities
- Difficulty following directions
- Difficulty with organizational skills
- Difficulty with abstract reasoning

Common Secondary Characteristics of Individuals with a Learning Disability

- Low motivation
- Poor-self-esteem
- Behavioral concerns
- Self-critical and critical of others

Sub-types of learning disabilities

Auditory Processing Disorder (APD) A disorder which makes it difficult for people to process sounds and speech.

Dyscalculia- affects the person's ability to understand and learn math facts such as giving the correct change and difficulty in remembering names.

Dysgraphia- affects a person's handwriting, inconsistent spacing, and poor spatial planning on paper.

Dyslexia- affects reading and related language. It can include reading comprehensive, spelling and reading fluency.

Visual Processing Disorder- has trouble interpreting visual information. The person may have difficulty with telling the difference with telling the difference between two objects.

Non-Verbal Learning Disorder- a person who has difficulty in interpreting nonverbal cues like facial expressions or body language.

Secondary Characteristics

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)- A brain disorder which makes it difficult for children and adults to pay attention, concentrate and control impulse behavior.

For Educators

Teaching Strategies

- Use a sequential multi-sensory approach
- Use graphs and pictures
- Break learning into smaller steps
- Model
- Allow opportunity for practice
- Have students repeat back

Resources

<https://ldaamerica.org/educators/>

<http://www.ldonline.org/educators>

Tips for Parents

1. Be an advocate for your child
2. Read to your child on a regular basis.
3. Visit the library frequently
4. Help your child organize homework material
5. Learn as much as you can about learning disabilities
6. Learn about your rights
7. Encourage your child's strength
8. Praise your child when he or she does well.
9. Pay attention to your own mental health.

Organizations

Learning Disabilities Association

LDA is a non-profit organization. Its purpose is to advance the education and general welfare of children and adults who manifest disabilities of a perceptual, conceptual, or coordinative nature. LDA's

website offers alerts and bulletins, links to other organizations, publications and contact information.

Council for Learning Disabilities. CLD is an international organization that promotes new research and effective ways to teach people with learning disabilities. The CLD website offers conference information, updates on scholarly initiatives, general information about learning disabilities and research reports.

National Center for Learning Disabilities. NCLD is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting public awareness and understanding of learning disabilities as well as enabling children and adults with learning disabilities to achieve their full potential and enjoy a more fulfilling and productive participation in our society.

International Dyslexia Association- IDA is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping individuals with dyslexia, their families and the communities that support them.

Auditory Processing Disorder Foundation- creates awareness about APD among parents and teachers so that they can have the power to be able identify possible cases of children with APD and take the proper steps to refer children to adequate evaluations.

About Special Needs Resource and Training Blog

The mission of the Special Needs Resource Blog is to create a comprehensive blog on resources, information and training on special needs and developmental disability topics.