

Seeing the signs of a Learning Disability

The symptoms of learning disabilities are a diverse set of characteristics, which affect development and achievement. Some of these symptoms can be found in all children at some time during their development. However, a person with learning disabilities has a cluster of these symptoms that do not disappear as s/he grows older.

Pre-School

Have you noticed that your child has

- difficulty finding the right word?
- difficulty making rhymes?
- trouble learning numbers, alphabet, days of the week, colors and shapes?
- trouble concentrating?
- trouble interacting with peers?
- difficulty following directions or learning routines?
- difficulty controlling pencil, crayons, scissors?

Grades K-4

Does your child

- have trouble learning the connection between letters and sounds?
- confuse basic words? (run, eat, want)
- make consistent reading and spelling errors including letter reversals (b/d, inversions (m/w), transpositions?
- experience difficulty learning basic math concepts?

Grades 5-8

Is your child having difficulty

- with reading comprehension or math skills?
- with letter sequences? (soiled for solid, left for felt)?
- with prefixes, suffixes, root words or other spelling strategies?
- organizing his/her bedroom, notebook, papers, and desk?
- keeping up with papers or assignments?
- with handwriting?
- with time management?
- understanding oral discussions and expressing thoughts aloud?

High School and Adults

Is your child having difficulty

- spelling the same word differently in a single document?
- taking on reading or writing tasks?
- with open-ended questions on tests?
- with memory skills?
- adapting skills from one setting to another?
- with a slow work pace?
- grasping abstract concepts?
- focusing on details?
- misreading information?

Definition of a Learning Disability

“A learning disability is a neurological disorder that affects one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using spoken or written language. The disability may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or to do mathematical calculations.” *LDA of America* <http://www.ldaamerica.org/>

Definition of a Specific Learning Disability

Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 P.L. 108-446 IDEA 2004

“...a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, that may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or to do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual disabilities, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia.”

