

Could Your Child Have a Learning Disability?

If your child is struggling with certain developmental milestones, look for signs of a learning disability and identify the type of learning disability your child may have to get a proper diagnosis.

Signs of a Learning Disability

Many children with learning disabilities are extremely smart. In fact, they can use their strengths to hide certain difficulties, like using a phenomenal auditory memory to avoid reading or taking notes. But signs of an LD usually appear before children are expected to read and write. There are also many different types of LDs, and it's possible for a child to have more than one. If you notice your 3- to 5-year-old having difficulty rhyming words, singing the alphabet song, or mispronouncing words more than other children their age do, these could be signs of a learning disability. Here are a few more red flags that indicate your school-aged child may have an LD:

- Mispronouncing words (e.g., "ospital" or "pithostel" instead of "hospital")
- Word substitutions (e.g., "The man grew a fuzzy, long 'board.'")
- Poor spelling
- Difficulty copying shapes, letters, and words
- Letter and word reversals (e.g., using a "b" instead of "d", writing "was" instead of "saw") after 7 years of age.

Although these signs may indicate your child has an LD, be sure to first rule out visual impairment, which may cause reading difficulties. Have your child evaluated by a developmental optometrist to make sure glasses aren't the solution, and always seek a professional for more opinions or an evaluation.

Diagnosing a Learning Disability

Teachers typically offer a referral for educational testing to understand why a student is not working up to his potential. Usually the discrepancy between a student's expected achievement (such as reading at grade level) and actual academic performance is a hallmark of a learning disability. Specific evaluations can diagnose specific learning disabilities. Parents may also choose a private evaluation by a neuropsychologist, a professional who is qualified to provide a diagnosis. A speech and language pathology (SLP) evaluation can diagnose dyslexia or, along with an audiologist, diagnose an auditory processing disorder, and an occupational therapy evaluation may indicate dyspraxia, dysgraphia, or a visual processing disorder. Although developmental or learning challenges may be observed in younger children, learning disabilities are typically identified in school-aged children when academic demands increase and skills are closely monitored.

More information: <http://www.parents.com/kids/development/learning-disabilities/learning-disability/>



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Book Lists For Understanding Learning Disabilities (ADHD, ADD, Dyslexia)



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Lists of Books

Learning Disabilities

Learning Disabilities

by Christina M. Giroud (J 371.9 Gir)

A Special Education: One Family's Journey Through the Maze of Learning Disabilities

by Dana Buchman (306.874 Buc)

ADHD Does Not Exist: The Truth About Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity

by Richard Saul (618.928 Sau)

The ADHD Book of Lists: A Special Guide for Helping Children and Teens with Attention Deficit Disorders

by Sandra F. Rief (371.94 Rie)

Teenagers with ADD and ADHD: A Guide for Parents and Professionals

by Chris A. Ziegler Dendy (618.928 Zie)

Help for the Hyperactive Child

by William Crook (649.153 Cro)

100 Questions & Answers About Your Child's ADHD: From Pre-school to College

by Ruth Nass (618.928 Nas)

Back to Normal: Why Ordinary Childhood Behavior is Mistaken for ADHD, Bipolar Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder

by Enrico Gnoulati (618.928 Gna)

Learning Disabilities

Taking Charge of ADHD: the Complete Authoritative Guide for Parents

by Russell A. Barkley (618.928 Bar)

A Disease Called Childhood: Why ADHD Became an American Epidemic

by Marilyn Wedge (618.928 Wed)

ADHD: What Everyone Needs to Know

by Stephen P. Hinshaw (618.928 Hin)

Gluten Exposed: the Science Behind Hype and How to Navigate to Healthy, Symptom-free Life

by Peter H. R. Green (616.399 Gre)

Dyslexia

by Paula Wiltshire (J 616.8553 Wil)

Overcoming Dyslexia: a New and Complete Science-based Program for Reading Problems at Any Level

by Sally E. Shaywitz (371.914 Sha)

ADHD/Hyperactivity Disorder

by Julie L. Williams (618.92 Wil)

A Parents' Guide to Developmental Delays: Recognizing and Coping with Missed Milestones in Speech, Movement, Learning and Other Areas

by Laurie Lecomer (649.152 Lec)

Helping Children Succeed What Works and Why

by Paul Tough (370.1 Tou)

For Your Child

My Friend has Dylexia

by Amanda F. Doering (E 371.91 Tou)

My Friend has ADHD

by Amanda F. Doering (E 618.92 Tou)

My Friend has Autism

by Amanda F. Doering (E 618.92 Tou)

My Friend has Downs Syndrome

by Amanda F. Doering (E 818.92 Tou)

Ebooks

Learning Disabilities by Penny Hutchins Paquette (Online Resource for Benbrook Patrons)

Thinking Differently: An Aspiring Guide for Parents of Children with Learning Disabilities by David Flink (Online Resource for Benbrook Patrons)

