

# LEARNING DISABILITY

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# Learning Disability

- Learning disability (LD) is a general term that describes specific kinds of learning problems.
- LD is a group of disorders that affects people's ability to either interpret what they see and hear or to link information from different parts of the brain.
- These limitations can show up in many ways: as specific difficulties with spoken and written language, coordination, self-control, or attention. Such difficulties extend to schoolwork and can impede learning to read, write, or do math.

- A learning disability is a neurological disorder that affects the brain's ability to receive, process, store, and respond to information. The term learning disability is used to describe the seemingly unexplained difficulty a person of at least average intelligence has in acquiring basic academic skills.

Learning disabilities are due to genetic and/or neurobiological factors that alter brain functioning in a manner which affects one or more cognitive processes related to learning.

These processing problems can interfere with learning basic skills such as reading, writing and/or math. They can also interfere with higher level skills such as organization, time planning, abstract reasoning, long or short term memory and attention.

It is important to realize that learning disabilities can affect an individual's life beyond academics and can impact relationships with family, friends and in the workplace.

“LD” does not stand for a single disorder. It is a term that refers to a group of disorders.

Individuals with LD have difficulties with academic achievement and progress.

- Discrepancies exist between a person’s potential for learning and what that person actually learns.
- Individuals with LD show an uneven pattern of development (language development, physical development, academic development, and/or perceptual development).

Learning problems are not due to environmental disadvantage. Learning problems are not due to mental retardation or emotional disturbance.

Learning disabilities can affect one’s ability to read, write, speak, spell, compute math, and reason. They also can affect a person’s attention, memory, coordination, social skills, and emotional maturity.

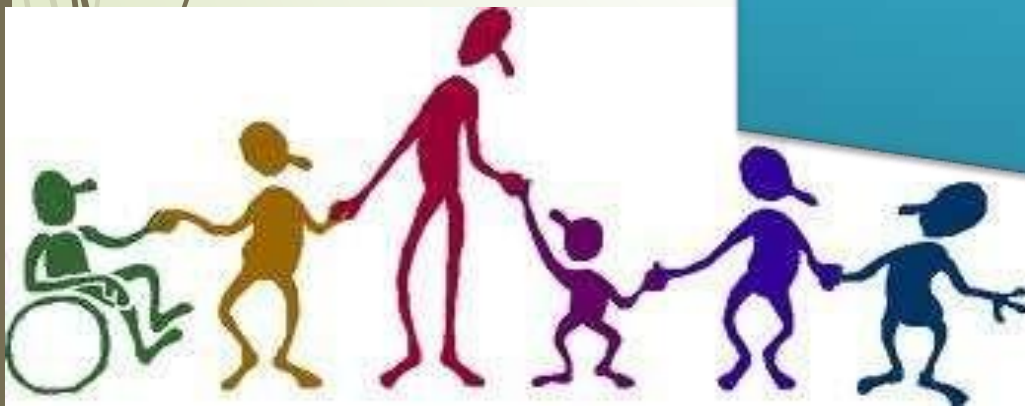
Individuals with LD have normal intelligence, or are sometimes even intellectually gifted.

Individuals with LD have differing capabilities, with difficulties in certain academic areas but not in others.

# NATURE

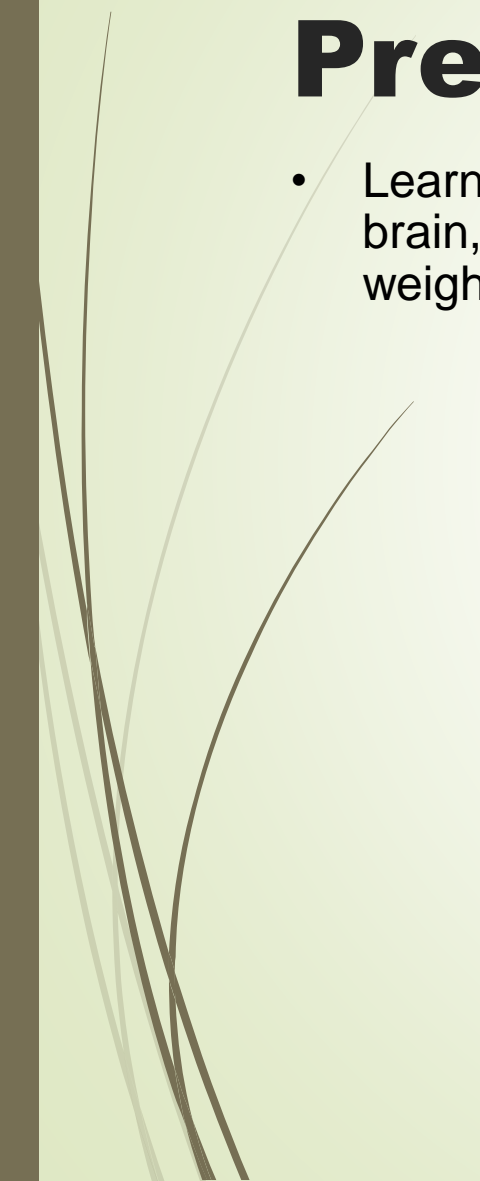
## AND

# CAUSES





# **Problems During Pregnancy And Birth**

- Learning disabilities can result from anomalies in the developing brain, illness or injury, fetal exposure to alcohol or drugs, low birth weight, oxygen deprivation, or by premature or prolonged labor.
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# Accidents After Birth

Learning disabilities can also be caused by head injuries, malnutrition, or by toxic exposure (such as heavy metals or pesticides).

# INCIDENT RATE:

- ❖ Estimated 15 % of the population
- ❖ 6 % to 8 % of school age population





# Characteristics of Learning Difficulties



Slow reading rate

Problems  
remembering math  
facts

Problems with  
reasoning and  
abstract concepts

Difficulty finding  
important points or  
main ideas

Problems  
understanding what  
is read

Difficulty recalling  
arithmetic  
operations



Confusion of similar words

Poor note-taking and outlining skill

Confusion or reversal of numbers or math symbols

Letter reversals

Difficulty remembering what is read

Difficulties beginning and sticking with study

Poor organization and management of time

Frequent spelling errors



- Overly large handwriting


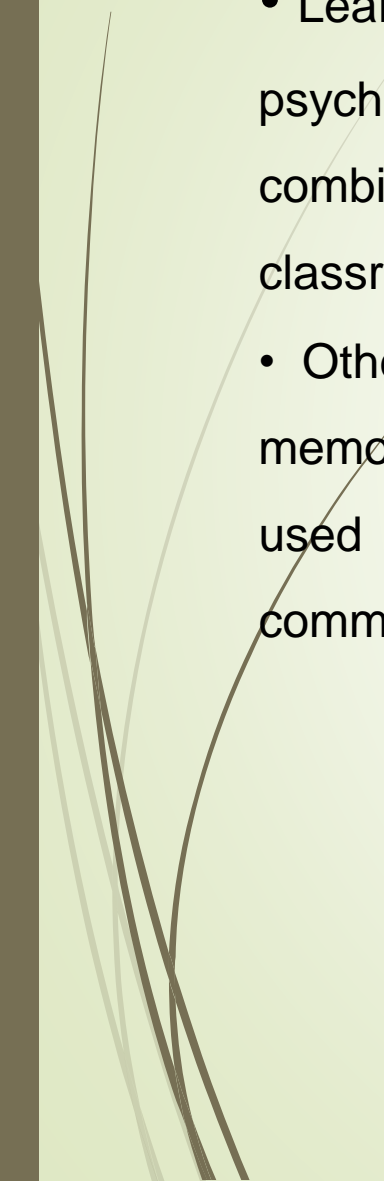
- Poor memory for recalling material

- Inability to complete assignments in time allowed

- Slow writing rate

- Difficulty with sentence structure or poor grammar

- Difficulty following directions

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- Learning disabilities are often identified by psychiatrists, school psychologists, clinical psychologists, and neuropsychologists through a combination of intelligence testing, academic achievement testing, classroom performance, and social interaction and aptitude.
  - Other areas of assessment may include perception, cognition, memory, attention, and language abilities. The resulting information is used to determine whether a child's academic performance is commensurate with his or her cognitive ability.
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# TYPES:

- 1. Dyslexia***
- 2. Dysgraphia***
- 3. Dyscalcula***
- 4. Dyspraxia***


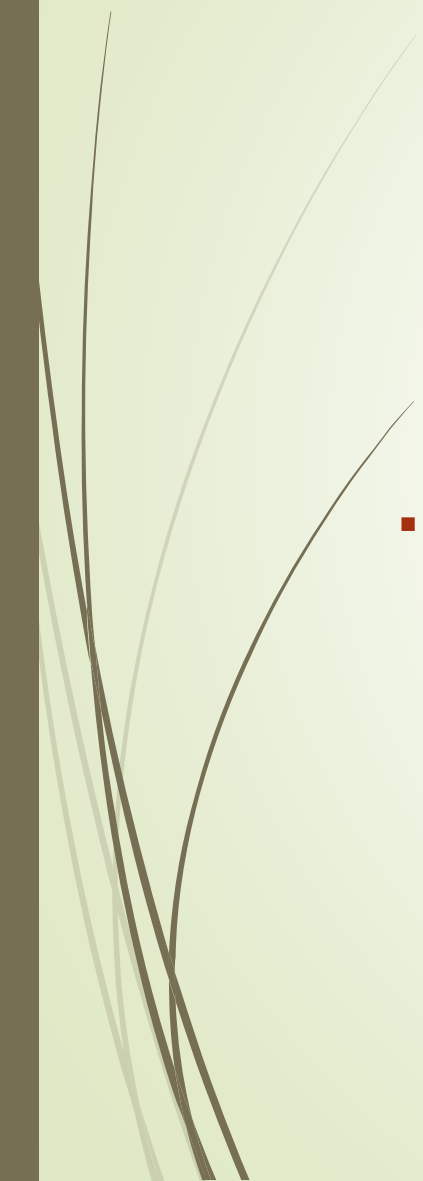


**Learning  
Disabilities**



# 1. Dyslexia

- People with dyslexia usually have trouble making the connections between letters and sounds and with spelling and recognizing words.
- People with dyslexia often experience other symptoms. These may include:
  - Failure to fully understand what others are saying
  - Difficulty organizing written and spoken language
  - Delayed ability to speak
  - Poor self-expression (for example, saying "thing" or "stuff" for words not recalled)

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- Difficulty learning new vocabulary, either through reading or hearing
  - Trouble learning foreign languages
  - Slowness in learning songs and rhymes
  - Slow reading as well as giving up on longer reading tasks
  - Difficulty understanding questions and following directions
  - Poor spelling
  - Difficulty recalling numbers in sequence (for example, telephone numbers and addresses)
  - Trouble distinguishing left from right

## 2. Dysgraphia

Dysgraphia is characterized by problems with writing. This disorder may cause a child to be tense and awkward when holding a pen or pencil, even to the extent of contorting his or her body. A child with very poor handwriting that he or she does not outgrow may have dysgraphia.

### **Other signs of this condition may include:**

- A strong dislike of writing and/or drawing
- Problems with grammar
- Trouble writing down ideas
- A quick loss of energy and interest while writing
- Trouble writing down thoughts in a logical sequence
- Saying words out loud while writing
- Leaving words unfinished or omitting them when writing sentences

# 3 Dyscalculia

Signs of this disability include problems understanding basic arithmetic concepts, such as fractions, number lines, and positive and negative numbers.

## **Other symptoms may include:**

- Difficulty with math-related word problems
- Trouble making change in cash transactions
- Messiness in putting math problems on paper
- Trouble recognizing logical information sequences (for example, steps in math problems)
- Trouble with understanding the time sequence of events
- Difficulty with verbally describing math processes

# 4. Dyspraxia

A person with dyspraxia has problems with motor tasks, such as hand-eye coordination, that can interfere with learning.

## **Some other symptoms of this condition include:**

- Problems organizing oneself and one's things
- Breaking things
- Trouble with tasks that require hand-eye coordination, such as coloring within the lines, assembling puzzles, and cutting precisely
- Poor balance
- Sensitivity to loud and/or repetitive noises, such as the ticking of a clock
- Sensitivity to touch, including irritation over bothersome- feeling clothing




# ASSESSMENT

- IQ Assessment
  - Learning disability battery
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# Management of Dyslexia

- Consists of using educational tools to enhance the ability to read.
  - Individualized Education Program (IEP)
  - Combination of educational methods
  - Teacher aide or tutor.
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# Management For Dyscalculia

- Dyscalculia cant be cured but there are therapies that could help your child.
- There are no medications that treat dyscalculia but medication could help kids deal with co-occurring issued like ADHD or anxiety.
- There are many non-medical ways to help kids with dyscalculia be successful.
- Educational therapy helps kids with different kinds of learning and attention issues develop strategies for working around their issues and dealing with frustration. An educational therapist may be able to help your child get better at working with numbers
- Speech therapy is also used
- Kids with dyscalculia may also have trouble with visual spatial skills.

# Management for Dysgraphia

- There are several kinds of specialists who can help
- Occupational therapy can improve fine motor skills that control hand movement.
- Educational therapy can help kids develop strategies to approach writing assignments and reduce frustration.
- Classroom accomodation