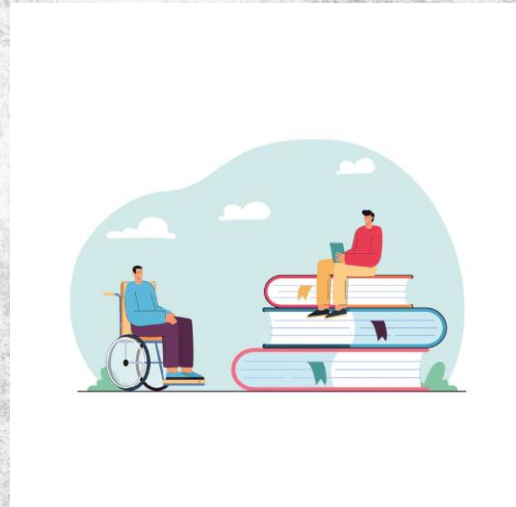


Learning disabilities:



Learning disabilities are disorders that affect the ability to understand or use spoken or written language, do mathematical calculations, coordinate movements, or direct attention.

Causes:

- Illness of the mother during pregnancy
- Problems during the birth that stop enough oxygen getting to the brain
- The unborn baby having some genes passed on from its parents that make having a learning disability more likely
- Illness, such as meningitis, or injury in early childhood

Symptoms:

A learning disability is different for everyone. No two people are the same.

A person with a learning disability might have some difficulty:

- understanding complicated information
- learning some skills
- looking after themselves or living alone



Treatment:

The most common treatment for learning disabilities is special education. Specially trained educators may perform a diagnostic educational evaluation assessing the child's academic and intellectual potential and level of academic performance. Once the evaluation is complete, the basic approach is to teach learning skills by building on the child's abilities and strengths while correcting and compensating for disabilities and weaknesses. Other professionals such as speech and language therapists also may be involved. Some medications may be effective in helping the child learn by enhancing attention and concentration. Psychological therapies may also be used

