Learning Disabilities (LD)

About Learning Disabilities (LD)

Learning disabilities, or learning disorders, are an umbrella term for a wide variety of learning problems. A learning disability is not a problem with intelligence or motivation, it is a neurological disorder. Some brains are simply wired differently, this difference affects how they receive and process information. Often seeing, hearing, or understanding things differently can be tough for people to overcome without proper diagnosis and accommodations to succeed in school, work, and with everyday tasks. The most common types of learning disabilities involve problems with reading, writing, math, reasoning, listening, and speaking.

Paying attention to normal developmental milestones for toddlers and preschoolers is very important. Early detection of developmental differences may be an early signal of a learning disability and problems that are spotted early can be easier to correct. A developmental lag might not be considered a symptom of a learning disability until your child is older, but if you recognize it when your child is young, you can intervene early. Sometimes, learning disabilities are experienced by extremely gifted people who have above average abilities in academic areas. These people are often referred to as "twice exceptional," because giftedness can pose additional challenges beyond LD.

Learning disabilities affect individuals across the life span. Adults with learning disabilities face challenges in finding the right college and succeeding while there, as well as challenges in preparing for and succeeding in the work world and in social settings.

Technology can open doors and break down barriers for children, youth, and adults with disabilities. Whether in the classroom or workplace, assistive technology (including devices, software, recordings, and much more) can increase, maintain, or improve the capabilities of individuals with disabilities. Also, technology that is used by everyone, such as spell check, can be particularly helpful to people with learning disabilities.

Types of Learning Disabilities

Dyslexia   Difficulty reading   Problems reading, writing, spelling, speaking

Dyscalculia	Difficulty with math	Problems doing math problems, understanding time, using money
Dysgraphia	Difficulty with writing	Problems with handwriting, spelling, organizing ideas
Dyspraxia (Sensory Integration Disorder)	Difficulty with fine motor skills	Problems with hand–eye coordination, balance, manual dexterity
Dysphasia/Aphasia	Difficulty with language	Problems understanding spoken language, poor reading comprehension
Auditory Processing Disorder	Difficulty hearing differences between sounds	Problems with reading, comprehension, language
Visual Processing Disorder	Difficulty interpreting visual information	Problems with reading, math, maps, charts, symbols, pictures

ADHD and autism sometimes co-occur or are confused with learning disabilities.

- **ADHD** – Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). While not considered a learning disability, can certainly disrupt learning. Children with ADHD often have problems sitting still, staying focused, following instructions, staying organized, and completing homework.
- **Autism** – Difficulty mastering certain academic skills can stem from pervasive developmental disorders such as autism and Asperger's syndrome. Children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) may have trouble communicating, reading body language, learning basic skills, making friends, and making eye contact.

Source: ldonline.org

Learning Disabilities (LD) Resources

National Center for Learning Disabilities

        www.ld.org

LD Basics

        www.ldonline.org

Help Guide

        www.helpguide.org

Arizona Rehabilitation services

        www.azdes.gov/rsa/

Job Accommodation Network

        www.askJan.org

Disability Resources.org

        www.disabilityresources.org/ARIZONA.html

For Assistive Technology tools and resources to support learning for students with disabilities.

Tech Matrix   www.techmarix.org

SwabLearning

        www.swablearning.org

Abledata

        www.abledata.com

LD APPS for Computers and Mobile Devices

NAME	Category	Platform		Age
Kurzweil 3000	Autism	Macintosh Windows (MS98 and up)		elementary
	Specific LD speech/lang emotional			middle secondary transition
Any.DO	productivity	iPhone iPad iPod Touch android	(iOS 7.0 or later)	Secondary transition
Ginger Page	productivity writing	iPhone iPad iPod Touch	(iOS 7.0 or later)	middle secondary transition
Dragon Dictation	Communication Business	iPhone iPad iPod Touch	(iOS 7.0 or later)	transition
Dyscalculator	math	iPhone iPad	(iOS 7.0 or later)	all
Tip Calculator	productivity	iPod Touch		all
YourTeacher	math	iPhone iPad iPod Touch	(iOS 7.0 or later)	middle secondary