Does my child have a learning disability?

Learning disabilities are neurologically-based processing difficulties in reading, writing and/or math that impact a child’s ability to achieve at a level that would be expected for his or her developmental age and general abilities.

The most common learning disability is dyslexia.

4-6% Percentage of American students with a learning disability

80% Percentage of learning disabilities in teens that are associated with reading

The signs to look for

Preschool
• Pronunciation difficulty
• Has a hard time memorizing the alphabet
• Trouble using buttons and zippers or tying shoes
• Cannot properly control pencils or crayons

Ages 5-9
• Hard time connecting letters and sounds
• Frequent misspellings and misreading
• Is slow learning new skills
• Cannot blend multiple sounds to form new words

Ages 10-13
• Reading comprehension issues
• Avoids reading out loud
• Spelling the same word differently throughout a document
• Bad organizational skills

Support your child to learn

Ignoring issues and attributing academic difficulties to laziness or lack of intelligence is a recipe for failure. Children with learning disabilities can be very successful in life with the right support and resources.

For more health tips, visit uclahealth.org/mattel