

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

Intervention and treatment options

- Involve a tutor, specialized teacher or educational therapist to work on phonics-based instruction or memory and attention strategies
- Offer extended test time, books on tape, testing in separate room, use of calculators or other helpful devices, rest breaks and shortened days
- Use medications to help with focus and attention or mood and anxiety, if warranted
- Request an evaluation and assistance from child's local school district to receive services



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.