

LEARNING PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

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Reaching your achievement potential

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Learning Disabilities occur when

- Average abilities essential for thinking and reasoning
- An impairment in one or more psychological processes related to learning:
 - Phonological processing
 - Memory and Attention
 - Processing speed
 - Language processing
 - Perceptual-motor processing
 - Visual-spatial processing
 - Executive functions (e.g. planning, monitoring and metacognitive abilities)
- Interfering with the acquisition and use of one or more of:
 - Oral language (e.g. listening, speaking, understanding)
 - Reading (e.g. decoding, comprehension)
 - Written language (e.g. spelling, written expression)
 - Mathematics (e.g. computation, problem solving)
- May also cause difficulties with organizational skills, social perception and social interaction.

Definition from the Learning Disabilities Association of Ontario <http://www.ldao.on.ca>

Developmental Disabilities occur when

Substantial limitations in functioning characterized by:

- Significantly below average intellectual functioning
- Concurrent deficits or impairment in adaptive functioning in at least two areas:
 - Communication
 - Self-care
 - Home living
 - Social / interpersonal skills
 - Use of community resources
 - Self-direction
 - Functional academic skills
 - Work
 - Leisure activities
 - Health care
 - Safety
- Onset is before age 18 years
- Different levels of severity can be diagnosed

Further information is available from AAMR http://www.aamr.org/About_AAMR/index.shtml

OTHER LEARNING DISORDERS NOT INCLUDED IN THE ABOVE DIAGNOSES:

- Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder and others
- Reading Disorder, Mathematics Disorder, Disorder of Written Language,
- Developmental Coordination Disorder
- Expressive Language Disorder, Mixed Receptive-Expressive Language Disorder, Phonological Disorder
- Motivation problems and other clinical disorders