

Signs of a Learning Disability

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How do you spot a child who may have a learning disability? Although all children with learning disabilities are different, each shows at least two or three warning signs. If these signs are chronic or occur in clusters, they may indicate a problem. The checklist below, provided by the National Center for Learning Disabilities, in New York City, includes many common signs of a learning disability. Check the areas that are troublesome for a particular student.

The student may have consistent trouble with...

Organization

- Knowing the time, date, and year
- Managing time
- Completing assignments
- Locating belongings
- Putting things in order
- Carrying out a plan
- Making decisions
- Setting priorities

Spoken or Written Language

- Learning or pronouncing words
- Discriminating between sounds
- Relating or writing stories
- Understanding questions
- Responding to questions
- Following directions
- Reading comprehension
- Spelling

Memory

- Remembering directions
- Learning math facts
- Learning new procedures
- Learning the alphabet
- Identifying letters
- Remembering names
- Remembering events
- Studying for tests

Physical Coordination

- Manipulating small objects
- Learning self-help skills
- Cutting
- Drawing
- Handwriting
- Climbing and running
- Mastering sports

Attention and Concentration

- Completing a task
- Acting before thinking
- Waiting
- Restlessness
- Daydreaming
- Distractibility
- Carrying out requests

Social Behavior

- Making and keeping friends
- Impulsive behavior
- Low frustration tolerance
- Sportsmanship
- Accepting changes in routine
- Interpreting nonverbal cues
- Working cooperatively