**Learning Disorder**

Many children may struggle in school with some topics or skills from time to time. When children **try hard and still struggle with a specific set of skills over time**, it could be a sign of a learning disorder. **Having a learning disorder means that a child has difficulty in one or more areas of learning, even when overall intelligence or motivation is not affected.**

**Some of the symptoms of learning disorders are**

* **Difficulty telling right from left**
* **Reversing letters, words, or numbers, after first or second grade**
* **Difficulties recognizing patterns or sorting items by size or shape**
* **Difficulty understanding and following instructions or staying organized**
* **Difficulty remembering what was just said or what was just read**
* **Lacking coordination when moving around**
* **Difficulty doing tasks with the hands, like writing, cutting, or drawing**
* **Difficulty understanding the concept of time**

**Examples of learning disorders include**

* **Dyslexia – difficulty with reading**
* **Dyscalculia – difficulty with math**
* **Dysgraphia – difficulty with writing**

Children with learning disorders may feel frustrated that they cannot master a subject despite trying hard, and may act out, act helpless, or withdraw. Learning disorders can also be present with emotional or behavioral disorders, such as [attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD](https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/adhd/)), or [anxiety](https://www.cdc.gov/childrensmentalhealth/depression.html%22%20%5Cl%20%22anxiety). The combination of problems can make it particularly hard for a child to succeed in school. Properly diagnosing each disorder is crucial, so that the child can get the right kind of help for each.

**Treatment for learning disorders**

Children with learning disorders often need extra help and instruction that are specialized for them. Having a learning disorder **can qualify a child for special education services in school. Schools usually do their own testing for learning disorders to see if a child needs intervention.** An evaluation by a healthcare professional is needed if there are other concerns about the child’s behavior or emotions. **Parents, healthcare providers, and the school can work together to find the right referrals and treatment.**

https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/learning-disorder.html