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DVR INTERACTIVE STATIONS

Disability Overview

There are many different kinds of learning disabilities and they can range from mild to severe problems. Most learning disabilities are categorized into reading, math and writing.

There are two types of **learning disabilities in reading** (dyslexia). Basic reading problems occur when there is difficulty understanding the relationship between sounds, letters and words. Reading comprehension problems occur when there is an inability to grasp the meaning of words, phrases, and paragraphs.

Signs of reading difficulty include problems with:

- letter and word recognition
- understanding words and ideas

- reading speed and fluency
- general vocabulary skills

Learning disabilities in math (dyscalculia) vary greatly depending on the person's other strengths and weaknesses. An individual's ability to do math will be affected differently by a language learning disability, or a visual disorder or a difficulty with sequencing, memory or organization.

An individual with a math-based learning disorder may struggle with memorization and organization of numbers, operation signs, and number "facts" (like $5+5=10$ or $5 \times 5=25$). Individuals with math learning disorders might also have trouble with counting principles (such as counting by twos or counting by fives) or

have difficulty telling time.

Learning disabilities in writing (dysgraphia) can involve the physical act of writing or the mental activity of comprehending and synthesizing information. Basic writing disorder refers to physical difficulty forming words and letters. Expressive writing disability indicates a struggle to organize thoughts on paper.

Symptoms of a written language learning disability revolve around the act of writing. They include problems with:

- neatness and consistency of writing
- accurately copying letters and words
- spelling consistency
- writing organization and coherence

Vocational Challenges

1. Ability to organize work
2. Time management problems
3. Conceptualization problems
4. Decision making problems
5. Maturity
6. Reading, writing and spelling
7. Math calculations
8. Auditory/visual memory
9. Form and spatial perception
10. Concentration
11. Attention to task
12. Visual motor problems
13. Abstract thinking
14. Following instructions
15. Self-image
16. Interpersonal relations
17. Impulse control
18. Unclear/vague communication style
19. Inability to focus on details
20. Sequencing problems
21. Relational distortions

Considerations for Successfully Working Together

- People with dyslexia or other reading disabilities have trouble reading written information. Give them verbal explanations and allow extra time for reading.
- Don't be surprised if you tell someone very simple instructions and they request that you write them down. Because spoken information gets "scrambled" as they listen, a person who has a learning disability such as auditory processing disorder may need information demonstrated or in writing.
- Ask the person how you can best relay information.
- Be direct in your communication.
- A person with a learning disability may have trouble grasping subtleties.
- It may be easier for the person to function in a quiet environment without distractions, such as a radio playing, people moving around or loudly patterned curtains.

Resources

National Center for Learning Disabilities 381 Park Avenue South, Suite 1401 New York, NY 10016 Ph: 212.545.7510 Fax: 212.545.9665 Toll-free: 888.575.7373

<http://www.nclld.org/>

Learning Disability Association of America

<https://ldaamerica.org/lda-chapters/colorado/>

Colorado Council on Learning Disabilities

<http://cocld.org/wp/>

Colorado Department of Education www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/SD-SLD.asp

Learning Disability Online LD OnLine WETA Public Television 2775 S. Quincy St. Arlington, VA 22206 Fax: 703-998-2060 <http://www.ldonline.org/>

Rocky Mountain Branch of International Dyslexia Association PO Box 46-1010 Glendale, Colorado 80246 303-721-9425 (voice mail) 303-557-9750 (fax) <http://dyslexia->