



# Mindscapes- Volume VI Edition 7

## Learning Disabilities & Differences : What We Need To Know

*"Different, not less"*

"IT  
SHOULDN'T  
MATTER HOW  
SLOWLY A  
CHILD LEARNS  
AS LONG AS  
WE ARE  
ENCOURAGING  
THEM NOT TO  
STOP."

Robert John Meehan

PosterMyWall.com



### Dear parent,

This edition of *Mindscapes* will focus on the importance of knowing about learning difficulties and differences in children. It's important for us to have an idea of what learning disabilities are and what can be done about them. This knowledge will help us to recognize the problem and get the appropriate help at the right time if our child does suffer from a learning disability.

Children learn many skills in life like how to listen and speak, or how to read,

write, and do math. Some skills may be harder to learn than others. If our child has had appropriate learning experiences and instruction, but is not able to keep up

### Detect Learning Disabilities in Kids



with peers, it is important to find out why and how to help, in order that those children who learn and think differently can easily succeed in school and in their future life. Often, they can benefit from the help that they receive at the right time to strengthen their abilities and focus on their area of need.



### What is a learning disability (LD)?

Learning disability is a term used to describe a range of learning and thinking differences that can affect the way the brain takes in, uses, stores, and sends out information. Some children have specific learning disabilities (also known as LDs), such as reading or math disabilities.

Others may have certain conditions that affect their learning like attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Many children with learning differences and difficulties can have more than one learning disability or condition that affects learning.

### What causes learning difficulties?

There are few factors that may influence learning difficulties such as:

- **Family history and genetics.** A family history of learning disorders increases the risk of a child developing a disorder.
- **Psychological trauma.** Psychological trauma in early childhood may affect brain development and increase the risk of learning disorders.
- **Physical trauma.** Head injuries or nervous system infections might play a role in the development of learning disorders.
- **Environmental exposure.** Exposure to high levels of toxins, such as lead, has been linked to an increased risk of learning disorders.

### How do we know if our child has learning differences and difficulties?

Learning and thinking differences aren't always obvious, but there are some signs that could mean our child needs help. Keep in mind that children develop and learn at different rates.





○ **Signs of learning difficulties in children.**

**Preschool children may have:**

- **Delays in language development:**  
By 2½ years of age, a preschool-age child should be able to talk in phrases or short sentences.
- **Trouble with speech:**  
By 3 years of age, the child should speak well enough so that we can understand most of what they say.



- **Trouble in learning colors, shapes, letters, and numbers.**

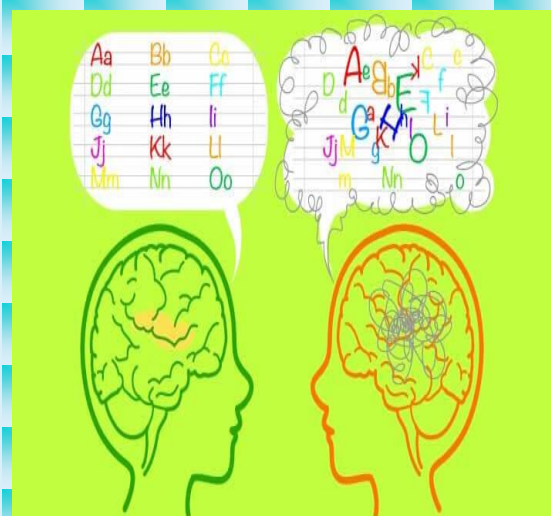
- **Trouble with rhyming words.**
- **Trouble with coordination.**

By 5 years of age, the child should be able to button clothing, use scissors, and hop. They should be able to copy a circle, square, or triangle.

- **Short attention spans.**  
Between 3 to 5 years of age, the child should be able to sit still and listen to a short story. As the child gets older, they should be able to pay attention for a longer time.
- **Frustration or anger when unable to learn.**

**School-aged children and teens may find it difficult to:**

- Follow directions.
- Stay organized at home and school.
- Understand verbal directions.
- Learn facts and remember information.
- Read, spell, or sound out words.
- Write clearly.
- Do math calculations or word problems.
- Focus on and finish schoolwork.



*“If a child  
can't learn  
the way we teach,  
maybe we  
should  
teach the  
way they learn.”*

~ Ignacio Estrada  
An Everyday Story

Therefore, it is important to understand that regardless of any cause that leads to learning difficulties, the first step is to recognize if the child is struggling and find out what is contributing to the difficulties and make sure the child gets any help as required.

References:

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