



# LEARNING DISABILITY-LD

- LD, or learning disorders, are an umbrella term for a wide variety of learning problems.

## **LD –DEF.**

- “A disorder in one or more of the psychological processes involved in understanding or in using spoken or written language”

# CAUSES

- Primary causes of LD are:
  - Brain dysfunction or brain damage
  - Heredity
  - Nutritional factors
  - Environmental factors

# CHECKLIST FOR LD

## Some Common Red Flags For LD

### Preschool signs of LD

- Problems pronouncing words
- Trouble finding the right word
- Difficulty rhyming

# Cont.

- Trouble learning the alphabet, numbers, colors, shapes, days of the week
- Difficulty following directions or learning routines
- Difficulty controlling crayons, pencils, and scissors or coloring within the lines
- Trouble with buttons, zippers, snaps, learning to tie shoes

# Ages 5-9 Signs and Symptoms of LD

- Trouble learning the connection between letters and sounds
- Unable to blend sounds to make words
- Confuses basic words when reading
- Consistently misspells words and makes frequent reading errors
- Trouble learning basic math concepts
- Difficulty telling time and remembering sequences
- Slow to learn new skills

# Ages 10-13 Signs and Symptoms of LD

- Difficulty with reading comprehension or math skills  
E.G.
- Trouble with open-ended test questions and word problems
- Dislikes reading and writing; avoids reading aloud
- Spells the same word differently in a single document
- Poor organizational skills (bedroom, homework, desk is messy and disorganized)
- Trouble following classroom discussions and expressing thoughts aloud
- Poor handwriting

# IDENTIFICATION OF LD – **SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

- **Children may exhibit the following social problems:**
  - Dependency
  - Distractibility
  - Lacks perseverance
  - Hyperactive
  - Destructive behaviour
  - irritability

# NOTE

Children who don't have LD may still experience some of these difficulties at various times.

- The time for concern is when there is a consistent unevenness in the child's ability to master certain skills.

# PROBLEMS WITH READING, WRITING, AND MATHS

- Learning disabilities are often grouped by school-area skill set.
- In school, the types of learning disorders that are most conspicuous usually revolve around Reading, Writing, or Maths.

# Common Types of Learning Disabilities

## 1. Dyslexia - Difficulty reading

### Two Types of LD in Reading:

- **Basic reading problems** (when there is difficulty understanding the relationship between sounds, letters and words.)
- **Reading comprehension problems** ( when there is an inability to grasp the meaning of words, phrases, and paragraphs.
- **Problems:** reading, writing, spelling, speaking

## 2. **Dyscalculia** - Difficulty with Maths

- may struggle with memorization and organization of numbers, operation signs, and number “facts” (like  $5+5=10$  or  $5\times 5=25$ ).
- might also have trouble with counting principles (such as counting by 2s or counting by 5s) or have difficulty telling time.
- **Problems:** doing math problems, using money etc.

### 3. **Dysgraphia** - Difficulty with writing

- **Two Types of Dysgraphia:**

- **Basic writing disorder** refers to physical difficulty forming words and letters.(physical act)
- **Expressive writing disability** indicates a struggle to organize thoughts on paper. (mental activity of comprehending and synthesizing information)

- **Problems:**

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

# **OTHER DISORDERS THAT MAKE LEARNING DIFFICULT**

**Difficulty in school doesn't always stem from a learning disability.**

- Losses in vision, hearing and other handicapping conditions such as: anxiety, depression, stressful events, emotional trauma, and other conditions affecting concentration

# Disorders

Disorders make learning more of a challenge thus:

- can reduce the ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or to do mathematical calculations.

# ASSESSMENT/SCREENING - LD

- Use tests for vision and hearing
- Reading and writing test: vowels, words, sentences
- Maths test: counting, writing numbers, work out numbers

**NOTE:** each task should be appropriate for each child's chronological age and class

# Guided Reading Activities for Children with Dyslexia

- Letter Art. - Learners with **dyslexia** often benefit from visual aides while learning to **read** and recognize letters
- Story-time Rhymes
- Building Words with Magnets/any object
- Phonemic Awareness Name Game. Etc.

# Strategies for Managing Dyscalculia

- Talk or write out a problem
- Draw the problem
- Break Task down to subsets
- Use Real life cues & physical objects
- Review often
- Provide charts of math facts or multiplication tables. Etc.

# Strategies for Managing Dysgraphia

- Provide different types of pens or pencils to see what works best for the learner.
- Provide hand-outs so there's less to copy from the board.
- Provide typed copies of **classroom** notes or lesson outlines to **help** the learner take notes.
- Provide extra time to take notes and copy materials. Etc.