

## Learning Related Disabilities

Many children have problems with learning and behavior from time to time, and variations in development are normal. However, a consistent unevenness in the mastery of skills and behaviors may indicate an underlying learning disability. If you suspect that your child has a learning disability you may wish to request, through your child's school, that he/she be evaluated for special education eligibility.



Information provided by the International Dyslexia Association ([www.iterdys.org](http://www.iterdys.org)) and the National Center for Learning Disabilities ([www.nclld.org](http://www.nclld.org)). Additional resources can be found at [http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/specific\\_Id.htm](http://www.isbe.net/spec-ed/html/specific_Id.htm).



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## Language-Related Learning Disabilities for Teenagers & Adults



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## Reading Disabilities

**Dyslexia** is a specific learning disability that is neurological in origin. It is characterized by difficulties with accurate and/or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.



Teenagers & Adults have trouble with:

- Reading at the expected level
- Understanding non-literal language, such as idioms, jokes, or proverbs
- Reading aloud
- Organizing and managing time
- Summarizing a story
- Learning a foreign language
- Memorizing

## Math Disabilities

**Dyscalculia** is a specific learning disability in which a person has unusual difficulty solving arithmetic problems and grasping math concepts. Two areas of weakness can contribute to this: 1. visual-spatial difficulties, which result in a person having trouble processing what the eye sees, and/or 2. language processing difficulties, which result in a person having trouble processing and making sense of what the ear hears.



Teenagers & Adults have trouble with:

- Estimating costs like groceries bills
- Learning math concepts beyond the basic math facts
- Budgeting or balancing a checkbook
- Concepts of time, such as sticking to a schedule or approximating time
- Mental math
- Finding different approaches to one problem

## Writing Disabilities

Writing requires a complex set of motor and information processing skills. Two disorders that can affect the ability to write are **Dyspraxia**, which affects motor skills development, and/or **Dysgraphia**, which affects visual-spatial and language processing ability.



School Aged Children with **Dyspraxia** have trouble with:

- Speech control - volume, pitch and articulation
- Writing
- Extreme sensitivity to light, touch, space, taste, smells
- Driving
- Clumsiness

Signs of **Dysgraphia** in school aged children:

- Trouble organizing thoughts on paper
- Trouble keeping track of thoughts already written down
- Difficulty with syntax structure and grammar
- Large gap between written ideas and understanding demonstrated through speech