

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



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



Illinois State Board of Education

Special Education and Support Services,
100 North First Street, N-253
Springfield, IL 62777-0001

Main Line: (217) 782-5589
Toll-free for Parents: (866)262-6663
TTY: (217) 782-1900

www.isbe.net

Language-Related Learning Disabilities for Young Children



Update by the
Illinois State Board of Education
April 2016

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.



Young Children have trouble with:

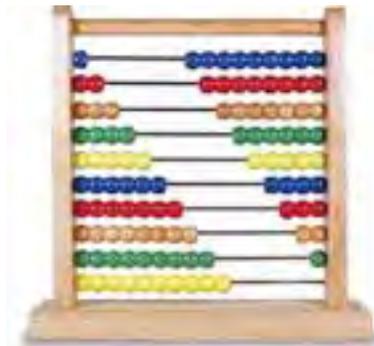
- Recognizing letters, matching letters to sounds, and blending sounds into speech
- Pronouncing words, for example saying “mawn lower” instead of “lawn mower”
- Learning and correctly using new vocabulary words
- Learning the alphabet, numbers, and days of the week or similar common work sequences

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.

Young Children have trouble with:

- Learning to count
- Recognizing printed numbers
- Tying together the idea of a number (4) and how it exists in the world (4 horses, 4 cars, 4 children)
- Poor memory for numbers
- Organizing things in a logical way
- Putting round objects in one place and square ones in another



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.

Young Children with **Dyspraxia** have trouble with:

- Learning to walk, jump and skip
- Pronouncing words and being understood
- Establishing left- to right- handedness
- Bumping into things frequently
- Being easily irritated by touch - clothing on skin, hair brushing

Signs of **Dysgraphia** in young children:

- Tight, awkward pencil grip and body position
- Avoiding writing or drawing tasks
- Trouble forming letter shapes
- Inconsistent spacing between letters or words
- Poor understanding of uppercase and lower case letters
- Inability to write or draw in a line or within margins