

ANATOMY OF A LEARNING DISABILITY

The symptoms of learning disabilities are a diverse set of characteristics which affect development and achievement. Some of these symptoms can be found in all children at some time during their development. However, a person with learning disabilities has a cluster of these symptoms which do not disappear as s/he grows older.



SYMPTOMS

Most Frequently Displayed

- short attention span
- poor memory
- difficulty following directions
- inability to discriminate between/among letters, numerals, or sounds
- poor reading and/or writing ability
- eye-hand coordination problems; poorly coordinated
- difficulties with sequencing
- disorganization and other sensory difficulties

Other Characteristics

- performs differently from day to day
- distractible, restless, impulsive
- says one thing, means another
- difficult to discipline
- doesn't adjust well to change
- difficulty listening and remembering
- difficulty telling time and knowing right from left
- delayed speech development; immature speech

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Rethink. & change your mindset from, "there is something wrong with my child" to "my child learns differently."
2. Focus on the things that your child is good at. Where do they excel? Do more of that! If they are struggling at school they need "wins" outside of school to build their confidence.
3. Expose them to the fantastic minds of famous individuals who struggled in school. Did you know Albert Einstein dropped out of school at 15 and Orlando Bloom believes his disability helped create a strong work ethic, which helped launch his successful career?
4. Seek the help that uses your child's strengths and natural talents to overcome their struggles.

Learn more about the Davis Program, a drug-free, strengths-based approach to learning disabilities. Call Melanie at (505) 321-4486 for more information.