

QUICK FACTS ABOUT LD

"Learning Disabilities" (LD) refers to a number of neurological disorders that affect the brain's ability to acquire and process verbal or nonverbal information. LD affects individuals who otherwise demonstrate average to above average intellectual ability. At least 10% of students have this invisible disability.

Learning disabilities range in severity and may interfere with the acquisition and use of one or more of the following:

- oral language (e.g. listening, speaking, understanding);
- reading (e.g. decoding, phonetic knowledge, word recognition);
- written Language (e.g. spelling and written expression); and
- mathematics (e.g. computation, problem solving);
- organizational skills (e.g. homework, time management);
- social skills (e.g. social perspective, interaction).

I.E.P. (Individual Educational Plan) is a "prescription" for students that outlines specific recommendations and short term goals. Parents and students are involved in preparing this document. It tracks and evaluates the student's progress and helps in transition planning. The IEP is a legal document and requires the signature of the administrator.

Accommodations and adaptations are techniques or tools provided to students to circumvent their area of deficit. While the curriculum remains the same, the way it is delivered is adapted. Some examples include:

- Copies of notes taken by classmate
- Photocopies of teachers notes/overheads
- Use of scribe for assignments and tests
- Use of reader for assignments and tests
- Separate (quiet) setting for test taking
- Extra time to complete assignments and tests
- Alternative testing methods (oral, multiple choice)

Assistive Technology describes tech tools or specialized software that are put in place to help children apply their strengths and to compensate for their deficits. Some examples include:

- Books on Audio tape or CD ROM
- Computer/word processor for tests and assignments
- Calculator
- Tape recorder
- Text-to-speech software
- Voice recognition (dictation) software

AD/HD or Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder is not a Learning Disability. Each is a distinctive neurobiological disorder. Each is recognized, diagnosed and managed differently. However, when one disorder is identified it is important to look for the other, as they often co-exist.

Early intervention. When there are concerns with a child's development, it is important to seek professional consultation without delay through the school and the parents for a psycho-educational assessment. Direct instruction from the classroom teacher and specialist teacher is crucial in early intervention. It will help to prevent the compounding of learning, behavioural, and social difficulties. These interventions include:

- specific skill instruction
- accommodations
- adaptations
- self-advocacy

For further in depth information, please contact LDA Fraser South at 604.591.5156 or visit LDA Canada at www.ldac.ca and LD Online at www.ldonline.com