

What are some characteristics of LD?



As you read through the following list of characteristics, keep in mind that everyone experiences some of the characteristics some of the time. In thinking about a person that may have a learning disability look through this list and check the ones that pertain MOST of the time, inconsistently over time, or on a regular basis.

Cognitive

- Poor memory (difficulty remembering what was heard, seen, or read)
- Difficulty in organizing ideas and information

Language

- Difficulty retrieving the appropriate word
- Limited range of vocabulary

Perceptual Motor

- Reversals of letters and numbers
- Difficulties hearing differences between similar sounding words
- Difficulties reading a map

Written Language

- Trouble getting ideas on paper
- Many errors in using grammar

Reading

- Difficulty sounding words out
- Slower reading rate than others
- Difficulties understanding what is read

Spelling

- Reversing words like “saw” for “was”
- Leaving out letters when you spell
- Avoiding writing words that are difficult to spell

Handwriting

- Laborious effort and time to complete written work
- Illegible handwriting
- Difficulties copying from the board or overhead

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Mathematics

- Poor adding, subtracting, multiplication, and/or division skills
- Inability to memorize the multiplication tables.
- Difficulties understanding word problems
- Difficulties remembering the sequence and steps to a math problem

Work and Study Habits

- Poor time management skills
- Difficulties completing work
- Difficulties staying on task
- Difficulties starting task
- Excessive test anxiety

Social Skills

- Difficulties expressing what you felt or thought
- Difficulties understanding humor and sarcasm
- Difficulties with small talk
- Difficulties reading body language and facial expression
- Difficulties working with others

Self-Awareness

- Low sense of self worth
- Low self-confidence
- Overly sensitive to criticism
- Frustrated easily
- Impulsive when responding to others

What distinguishes a learning disability from a learning difficulty is that a disability substantially interferes with a person's ability to function in school, work or life. Therefore, testing to discover the cause of the learning difficulty may provide additional support or accommodations if a disability is found. **For more information on characteristics of learning disabilities, please call LDA at 952-922-8374.**

LDA of Minnesota

For more than 36 years, **Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota** has been serving the needs of people of all ages at risk for learning disabilities or related learning difficulties by maximizing their potential so that they may lead more productive and fulfilled lives. Services include educational assessments, one-to-one and small group tutoring, consultations, family literacy activities, school-to-work transition programming, professional training, public education, and high-quality educational products.

LDA of Minnesota is the state affiliate of LDA of America, a non-profit organization of volunteers dedicated to identifying causes, promoting prevention of learning disabilities, and enhancing the quality of life for all individuals with learning disabilities and their families by encouraging effective identification and intervention, fostering research, and protecting their rights under law.