



Parents, Care and Protect Your Children.....Get  
Involved

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD HAS A LEARNING  
DISABILITY?

# AGENDA

- Welcome and Prayer
- Icebreaker
- Group Norms
- The Presentation
- Feedback/Questions
- Evaluation
- Closure
- Refreshment

## GROUP NORMS

- This is a safe zone, we practice CONFIDENTIALITY.
- We respect each others opinion and so we listen attentively to each participant.
- We do not interrupt but wait patiently for our turn to speak.
- We put our phones on silent/vibrate so we do not distract the speaker.
- We are human and emergencies do happen , so we step outside to take that important call.
- Whereas, we would love to hear from everyone , feel free to say "Pass," if you feel very strongly about any particular issue being discussed

## DEFINITION

- What is a learning disability
- Learning disability used to be known as mental handicap or mental retardation.
- Other terms sometimes used are general or global developmental delay.
- A child with general learning disability, finds it more difficult to learn understand and do things compared to other children of the same age.
- Like all children and young people, these children continue to progress and learn through out their childhood- but at a slower rate.

# A Brief Glance at Some Disabilities

- Dysgraphia
- Dyslexia
- Dyscalculia
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AF28oFUe7K4>
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD)

## THE DEGREE OF DISABILITY

- The degree of disability can vary greatly.
- Some children will never learn to speak and will need help with looking after themselves when they grow up( feeding, dressing or going to the toilet)
- On the other hand, the disability may be mild and the child will grow up to be independent.
- For a parent, it can be distressing to find out that their child has a learning disability .
- Sometimes these children are ridiculed by family members or even teased by classmates and relatives.

## CLUES TO LOOK FOR

- IN PRESCHOOLERS , look for:
- Communication delays- difficulty with speech / slow language development, problems understanding what is being said.
- Poor coordination and un even motor development-delays in learning to sit , walk ,colour and using scissors.(later watch for problems with forming letters/ numbers)
- Problems with memory and routine-not remembering specifics of daily activities, not understanding instructions
- Delays in socialization-including playing and relating interactively with their peers.

# CLUES TO LOOK FOR CONTINUED

- In the elementary/primary/preparatory school, look for: problems with letter sounds and numbers, have difficulties sounding letters and sounding out letter blends, has trouble remembering words by sight. Later, comprehension issues pop up!
- Problems forming letters and numbers, later spelling / grammar issues
- Difficulties learning Mathematics
- Difficulty remembering facts
- Difficulty organizing materials (notebooks pencils etc.)



## ELEMENTARY CONTD.

- Difficulty understanding oral instructions and an inability to express oneself verbally.
- Losing and forgetting materials often, doing work and forgetting to hand them in to teacher.
- Inability to plan out steps to complete homework /projects.
- Difficulty organizing thoughts for essays, reports/ public speaking.

## WHAT DO I DO NOW???

- Firstly, these conditions have to be present and observed by someone over a period(usually 6 mths).
- Before we can safely say the child has a Learning Difficulty, this must be confirmed by an educational psychologist.
- Contact your child's principal/teacher guidance counsellor and discuss the next steps (professional evaluation)
- If your child is in a private school , you are entitled to request an evaluation at the public school your child would have been attending.

# THE DIAGNOSTIC PROCESS

- The diagnostic process is called “psycho-educational” evaluation.
- The (RTI) Response to Intervention Model is widely used-children are exposed to scientific research based instructions. If they do not respond, they are considered for special education.
- Under the law: public and private schools must provide this valuation if requested to do so.
- The process involves an assessment(IQ Test), a battery of achievement tests to assess skills in Reading, Writing and Mathematics and a battery of tests to assess processing skills.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjmXEVARgC8>

# CONFIRMATION!!!!!!!!!!

- The results of the tests should clarify whether or not the student has a Learning Disability.
- If your child has been confirmed with an LD, don't be discouraged, help is available!!!
- Based on the severity of the case, the correct recommendations accommodations will be applied.
- If it is a mild case, the child will be accommodated inclusively (within the regular classroom setting)
- Severe cases are accommodated outside of the school setting.
- Whatever the case with your child , there is a greater need for closer collaboration between home and school, in the interest of the child.
- Be warned, some cases cannot be cured!! However, your child will be accommodated with the appropriate life-coping skills needed for survival!!!

# Summary

- Observe your child from an early age.
- Be concerned if your child keep missing their developmental milestones.
- Speak to your child's teacher, principal or pediatrician about any questions relating to your child's learning abilities.
- If a particular learning problem persists for three to six months or more, request a professional assessment.
- Early detection and intervention is key as some learning challenges can be corrected or treated.
- Some learning disabilities cannot be cured and can stick around for a lifetime. However, your child can be empowered with coping skills that will enable them to learn.