

CHARACTERISTICS OF LEARNING DISABILITIES

The ten most frequently noted characteristics used in diagnosing learning disabilities are listed here, in descending order of occurrence.

1. **Hyperactivity** - motor behavior which is not demanded by the situation or the task involved and which is disruptive to the group or to the expectation of the observers.
2. **Perceptual – motor impairments** – difficulty in coordinating a visual or auditory stimulus with a motoric act, such as copying letters or geometric designs.
3. **Emotional lability** – emotional outbursts which are not reasonably expected by the observer on the basis of knowledge concerning the situation or the immediate past history of the person.
4. **General coordination deficits** – clumsiness.
5. Disorders of attention such as **DISTRACTIBILITY**, behavior which reflects the person's interest in things other than those on which concentration should be focused; **PERSEVERATION**, behavior which reflects the person's inability to change the focus of attention even when the reason for interest has changed.
6. **Impulsivity** – behavior which appears to reflect little thinking concerning its consequences.
7. **Disorders of memory or thinking** – difficulty in recalling material which should have been learned, or difficulty in understanding abstract concepts.
8. **Specific learning disorders** – difficulty in learning to read, write, spell or do arithmetic.
9. Difficulty in comprehending or expressing spoken language, deficits in articulation.
10. **Equivocal neurological signs** – neurological signs which are not clearly associated with specific neurological problems but which are not clearly within the normal range of functioning.

PLEASE CALL HELPEOPLE AT 470-7447, IF THESE OR OTHER BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS ARE OF YOUR CHILDREN AND ARE CONCERNING YOU.