



## What's a Learning Disability?

Learning disabilities affect a child's ability to read, write, do math, socialize, and use or understand language. An individual with a learning disability may struggle in more than just one area.

According to the [National Institute of Health](#), learning disabilities “are caused caused by differences in the brain, most often in how it functions but also sometimes in its structure.” These differences may be present due to family traits, prenatal issues, trauma, or exposure to toxic substances. Because of the differences in the brain, the brain processes information differently.

Learning disabilities are lifelong challenges, and learning disabilities not only affect a person in school but can also impact them at work and in their everyday activities. However, learning disabilities have zero to do with the student's intelligence. A person with a learning disability is not lazy or dumb. Their brains are simply wired differently. With the right tools, a student can still excel in their education, even with a learning disability!

The most common types of learning disabilities are dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, apraxia of speech, central auditory processing disorder, and nonverbal learning disorders. However, learning disabilities can differ from kid to kid. One might find reading and spelling challenging, while another could be a book enthusiast but struggle with math. Then there's the one who might have trouble grasping what others are saying or expressing themselves. The issues are diverse, but they all fall under the learning disability umbrella.

If you think your child has a learning disability, you should request an evaluation. Don't adopt a “wait and see” approach, which is common advice from schools and well-meaning friends. An evaluation can help both you and your child's teacher know about your child's strengths and weaknesses and open a “toolbox” of support to help your child shine. In addition, many schools won't provide services unless an evaluation is done, so it's a great first step into better understanding how your child's mind works, and how they can be best supported in their education! Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), parents have the right to ask for a FREE special education comprehensive evaluation for their child, even if you are homeschooling or in a private school. This is true nationwide! Check out our [site](#) for a [detailed guide](#) on how to make that initial eval happen. You can also reach out to Love Your School for input and support at [hello@loveyourschool.org](mailto:hello@loveyourschool.org)! **If you've got more questions, we want to hear from you!**

## **More Resources:**

[Common Symptoms of a Learning Disability - The Mayo Clinic](#)

[CDC's Developmental Milestones - The Center for Disease and Prevention](#)

[Learning Disability Basics - LD OnLine](#)

[Types of Learning Disabilities - Learning Disabilities Association of America](#)