

Learning Disabilities

Learning disabilities are information processing disorders. They can affect how a person acquires, organizes, expresses, retains, understands or uses verbal or non-verbal information.

Here are some examples:

- Dyslexia (problems in reading)
- Dyscalculia (problems in mathematics)
- Dysgraphia (problems in writing and fine motor skills).

People with learning difficulties may have problems communicating.

You may not know that a person has a learning disability unless you are told.

Using words	
Don't say	Say
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• learning disabled• learning disordered• dyslexic• autistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a person with a learning disability or people with learning disabilities• a person with dyslexia• a person with autism• a person with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Tips on how to interact with people

who have learning Disabilities

- Patience and a willingness to find a way to communicate are your best tools.
- When you know that someone with a learning disability needs help, ask how you can best help.
- Speak normally and clearly, and directly to the person.
- Take some time — people with some kinds of learning disabilities may take a little longer to understand and respond.
- Try to find ways to provide information in a way that works best for them. For example, have a paper and pen handy.
- If you're dealing with a child, be patient, encouraging and supportive.
- Be courteous and patient. The person will let you know how to best provide service in a way that works for them.