

Learning Disabilities



Possible Student Characteristics:

- Reading comprehension difficulties (this impacts all academic subjects).
- Listening difficulties (problems picking out key points; distractible; problems understanding what's being said, etc.).
- Writing problems (speed of writing; legibility problems, etc.).
- Math problems (may include math anxiety; dyscalculia; difficulty comprehending word problems; difficulty focusing on a single problem if there are many on the page, etc.).
- Social problems (immature; inappropriate comments; difficulty interacting in small or large group activities; difficulty interpreting social cues, etc.).
- ADHD (difficulty in focusing; overactivity; inappropriate comments, etc.).
- Organizational problems (this impacts completing projects, doing homework, taking notes, engaging in social and academic activities, etc.).
- Time management problems (including getting assignments done, allocating enough time for social and academic activities, etc.).
- Psychological problems (difficulty maintaining relationships; lack of self-esteem, etc.).

Teaching Tips:

- Present material in a variety of ways, not just through the lecture method. Consider visual aids, hands-on materials, lectures, videos, computer-enhanced instruction, etc. This will allow students to use whatever their strengths are in processing materials.
- Allow students to reveal what they have retained in a variety of ways, not simply through paper-and-pencil tests. Consider student presentations, long-term projects, small group presentations, term papers, individual oral testing, etc.
- Consider posting class notes, Powerpoint slides, or an outline of key concepts before class.
- Post major due-dates for assignments and tests in the same way each week (Courseden, email, etc.), even though they are indicated in the syllabus. Explain to students at the beginning of the semester how they will be posted and that it is their responsibility to note these deadlines.

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