

Early Warning Signs of Learning Difficulties

Parents / teachers need to know how to recognise the early warning signs that indicate the child may be "at risk" for learning difficulties, so they can seek guidance concerning assessment and preventative measures.

Delayed Language Development

- delayed speech sound development
- poor comprehension
- difficulty with sequencing ideas
- difficulty with finding the words to express an idea
- difficulty with following instructions

Limited Concentration Span

- unable to persevere with a task
- poor visual perception
- avoids jigsaws, construction, activity books, table games
- can't manage shape boards, mosaics
- can't copy a basic shape or copy own name by 5-5 1/2 years
- overly active (hyperactive)

Immature Body Awareness

- can't identify parts of own body
- clumsy
- confused handedness
- poor balance

Immature Integration

- didn't crawl on all fours
- can't use hands and feet together
- avoids crossing the midline of the body
- difficulty learning to swim

Confused Sense of Time

- unsure of yesterday, tomorrow, now, before, after
- no sense of planning the day
- difficulty organising themselves

Difficulty with Sequencing

- can't organise themselves or their property
- poor rhythm
- can't learn dance steps or memorise word patterns
- can't pronounce longer words correctly
- can't blend sounds correctly

All children exhibit some of these behaviours. The presence of one or more may or may not be significant, but a cluster of these behaviours requires further assessment.