

Famous People with LD...

- ❖ Erin Brockovich, activist
- ❖ Bruce Jenner, athlete
- ❖ Danny Glover, actor
- ❖ Cher, entertainer
- ❖ Whoopi Goldberg, actor
- ❖ Jewel, musician
- ❖ Charles Schwab, businessman
- ❖ John Irving, writer
- ❖ John Chambers, businessman
- ❖ Greg Louganis, athlete
- ❖ Harry Belafonte, entertainer
- ❖ Tom Cruise, actor

Stress Strengths – Don't Give Up!

Students with learning disabilities may have weaknesses in some areas but are often very skilled in others. Find ways to build self-esteem by encouraging areas of strength.

Self-advocacy is key. Students must understand their learning needs as well as be aware of available supports.

Websites Worth Visiting

- LD Association of Nova Scotia (LDANS)
<http://www.nsnet.org/ldans/>
- Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC)
<http://www.ldac-taac.ca/>
- Schwab Learning.
<http://www.SchwabLearning.org>
- LD Online
<http://www.ldonline.org>
- All Kinds of Minds
<http://www.allkindsofminds.org>
- Spark Top
<http://www.allkindsofminds.org>

*For more information contact:
1-902-275-2733*



Severe Learning Disabilities Program

Student Services Department

September 2006

What is a Learning Disability?

A learning disability is a difference in brain structure that affects the ability to receive, process or express information. As a result, learning to read, write or to do math can be adversely impacted, despite average to above average intelligence. Social skills can also be an area of difficulty.

Attention difficulties (ADD/ADHD) often co-exist with a learning disability.

What a Learning Disability is Not

Children are not considered to have a learning disability if their learning problems are due primarily to:

- English as a second language
- Limited school attendance
- Economic disadvantage
- Impaired hearing or vision
- Emotional disturbance
- Physical disability
- Autism
- Cognitive delay
- A mismatch between home and school expectations

Signs and Symptoms

Learning disabilities can be hard to recognize and often go undetected. A key indication is uneven learning patterns, doing well in some areas and struggling in others. These inconsistencies often confuse parents, teachers, and even students themselves. Without intervention, these students may begin to see themselves as unintelligent, become angry or give up on school.

Terminology

- Dyslexia – Difficulty with listening, speaking, reading, and/or writing.
- Dyscalculia – Difficulty calculating math problems.
- Dysgraphia – Illegible handwriting; difficulty writing within a space.
- Dyspraxia – Problems with muscle control and coordination.
- Sensory Processing – Problems understanding visual and/or auditory information.
- Adaptations – Strategies used to bypass the area of difficulty.
- Common adaptations include:
 - Books on CD
 - Use of a computer
 - Extra time.

Program Overview

1. The South Shore Regional School Board employs 2.5 Severe Learning Disability (SLD) Specialists and one itinerant Program Support Teacher who works specifically with SLD students in the area of technology.
2. Consultative Service is available at all grade levels for student identified as having a learning disability. This involves working with the school staff, attending meetings and assisting with programming. Direct work with students for a short period of time may also be necessary.
3. Direct Service involves pull out intervention for work in the areas of literacy, numeracy and/or technology. This service is available to students at the middle school/junior high level. Once pull out intervention is completed, students will be monitored for the duration of their school career.
4. Application for SLD services can be made on a monthly basis through the Community of Schools as soon as the student is diagnosed. Students meeting criteria for direct service will be placed on a waiting list until a spot becomes available.