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## YOUTH & LEARNING DISORDERS

Learning disabilities are a range of disorders that may affect the acquisition, organization, retention, or understanding of verbal/non-verbal information. This is caused by genetic and/or neurobiological factors that have changed how the brain functions, which in turn impacts one or multiple cognitive brain processes related to learning and retaining information.

### Types of Learning Disorders

- Oral language: listening, speaking and understanding
- Reading: understanding phonetic knowledge or the sounds that make up spoken language
- Written: language, spelling, writing, and written expression
- Mathematics: number sense, computation, math facts fluency, and problem solving

### Treatments

Intervention programs to specifically target the learning disability the child has. This can come in the form of gaining special education services from the child's school or Individualized Education Programs (IEPs), a personalized education program to help accommodate the child's special needs.

### Early signs and symptoms

- Difficulty understanding and following instructions
- Difficulty remembering what someone just told them
- Fails to master reading, spelling, and/or math skills
- Difficulty telling right from left and difficulty identifying words
- Tends to reverse letters, words, or numbers
- Lacks coordination in walking, sports, or small activities (i.e. holding a pencil or tying a shoelace)
- Easily loses or misplaces homework
- Difficulty understanding the concept of time

