

## Children –Learning Disorders

What are the types of developmental/learning disorders?

There are three major types of specific learning disorders – Reading disorder, Mathematics disorder, and disorder of Written Expression. In addition, Non-Verbal Learning Disability (NVLD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disability (ADHD) could also affect a child's learning.

What are the signs of learning disorders?

Regardless of gender, a child may have a learning disorder if his achievement in reading, writing, or mathematics is below what is expected for his age, grade and intelligence level. There is usually a negative impact on the child's academic success or another important area of life requiring math, reading, or writing skills.

Although problems with learning may have been present from a young age, specific learning disorders are most commonly diagnosed in primary school. This is when children have to do more reading, math and writing, and as such, weaknesses are the most apparent at that time.

What if I suspect my child has learning disorder?

Parents and teachers alike are encouraged to exercise caution before putting labels such as dyslexia, ADHD and slow on children. This is especially important to note when a child who is doing well in school suddenly starts failing their subjects and not doing well. There may be other issues such as emotional and stress issues that may affect a child's performance during a given period of time.

The natural course of action is to observe and see if the poor performance is seen throughout the child's different environments like home, school and tuitions. A trip to the psychologist may help to find out what the child may be going through.

A diagnostic assessment using standardised test that are individually administered would help to determine if he has a learning disorder. When administering the test, the psychologist would take into consideration the child's ethnic cultural background and developmental history.

At The Therapy Room, the team of psychologists – led by the principle psychologist, Geraldine Tan – is experienced in conducting diagnostic assessments suitable to determine if a child has learning disorder. In addition, the psychologists in The Therapy Room also do therapies for children such as play therapy which focuses on using play to understand and communicate with children through their feelings, behaviours and

thoughts. Should you have any concerns or inquiries, please feel free to click [here](#) and contact us to find out more.

What should I do if my child has a learning disorder?

Learning disorders require specialised educational methods that cater for the individual child. Once a comprehensive psycho-educational assessment has been conducted, psychologists are able to provide recommendations on specific skills and strategies that could be used at home and in school. In addition to special classroom instructions at school, students with learning disorder frequently benefit from one-to-one work that focuses on their specific learning problem.

It is important to note that when such disorders go undiagnosed and/or are not dealt with effectively, children may present issues such as low self-esteem, socialisation difficulties and a desire to drop out from school. This is because children in such situations often feel frustrated and some may be teased or ostracised by their peers as a result of their inability to perform academically. Some of these children may suffer from co-morbid conditions such as conduct disorder or depression. Early intervention and testing are essential to effective management of learning disorders, especially in giving the child a good foundation for the rest of his academic career.

Here at The Therapy Room, we want to help those with learning disorders. We want to ensure that neither the parents nor children feel hopeless. With ample experiences in working with children with learning disorder and conducting diagnostic assessments, the team of psychologists, led by Geraldine Tan, is here to help. Should you have any concerns or inquiries, please feel free to click [here](#) to contact us for more information.