

# LEARNING DISABILITIES

Written by Julie M. Armenta, M.A, Educational & Family Specialist

The federal government has defined learning disabilities in public law 94-142 (the education of all handicapped children get) as follows:



*“Specific Learning Disabilities means a disorder in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in understanding or in using language, spoken or written, which may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell, or do mathematical calculations. The term includes such conditions as perceptual handicaps, brain injury, minimal brain dysfunction, dyslexia, and developmental aphasia. The term does not include children who have learning problems which are primarily the result of visual, hearing or motor handicaps, of mental retardation, of emotional disturbance or of environmental, cultural, or economic disadvantage.”*

Learning disabilities occur in many forms, such as vocal, auditory, motor control, communication, logic, etc. The person with learning disabilities is usually considered to have near average or above average intelligence. However, we usually see a gap between potential and achievement. Each child, adolescent, or adult with a learning disability is brilliant in so many ways, but is unique, and must be approached in a unique manner to promote and nurture their own individual learning style.

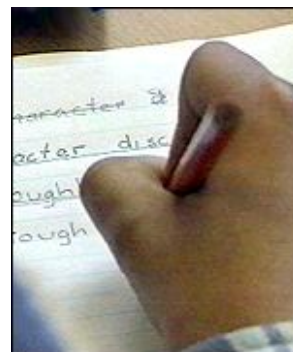
## Most common learning disabilities at Armenta Learning Academy

1. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
2. Visual & Auditory Processing Disorder
3. Dyslexia
4. Dyscalculia
5. Dysgraphia
6. Dyspraxia
7. Epilepsy
8. Aspergers Syndrome
9. Autism Spectrum disorder



## Five astonishing statistics on learning disabilities

1. 30% of American families are affected by learning disabilities.
2. Quiet babies or babies that don't babble or coo are at risk for developing communication and/or learning problems.
3. 10% of children are left-handed; left-handedness may be connected with language problems and some physical health problems, such as allergies and migraine headaches.
4. Children's scribbling is the basis and building blocks of development in a child.
5. To encourage language, talk to your children in the womb; infants recognize their mother's and father's voices on the first day of life.



## Most frequent symptoms with learning disabilities that we see at ALA are:

1. Short attention span
2. Poor memory and concentration
3. Difficulty following directions
4. Poor reading ability and eye-hand coordination
5. Difficulty with organization, sounds, numerals, and letters
6. Impulsive and uncontrollable behavior
7. Fine motor development and speech delay
8. Trouble understanding directions and word concepts
9. Challenges with change in schedule
10. Telling time is difficult
11. Directions such as left or right are a challenge
12. Problems with authority and discipline



The LD child performs inconsistently and can respond inappropriately at home and school, and can become easily distracted and disinterested. While we are working with the child, we often see short-term memory and poor performance in writing and reading, letter reversal such as “d” for “b” and ‘gril’ for ‘girl’, and difficulty sounding out words.

## Common behavior characteristics of LD children

1. Childish and bossy behavior
2. Poor impulse control/judgment
3. Does not think of consequences of actions
4. A need for immediate gratification
5. Inability to set realistic priorities which leads to frustration
6. Inability to develop meaningful social relationships with others (usually these children are loners)
7. Inability to adequately interpret their problems and needs



**The hidden handicaps which use the term ‘Learning Disabilities’ has been evident ever since children have been required to learn and process information, but recently has become more noticeable with greater emphasis on learning and education. Effective treatment and correction must involve total approach to the educational, physiological, psychological, and medical needs of the individual child. Once the child is diagnosed as being at risk, the correct remedial teaching can be done here at Armenta Learning Academy to avoid negative outlook and experiences at home and at school. At ALA we will give you the support for your children in reading, dictation, comprehension and other significant skills needed. We provide advice, recommendations, and tools on how to remedy the situation and how to improve your child’s self-confidence and learning strategies. We are a team of professionals with advanced qualifications and wide ranging experiences of teaching and working with children and adults with special learning needs, and will make a difference in your child’s education and life.**



### Armenta Learning Academy

26041 Cape Dr. #270 \* Laguna Niguel

**949-367-WISE (9473)**

academicsuccessnow@yahoo.com

www.armentalearningacademy.com

