WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT LEARNING DISABILITIES (LD)

People with LD have brains that are wired differently

LD impacts the way the brain processes information

LD can affect learning across many different subjects

LD continues throughout the lifespan

LD exists across class, culture, race, language and gender

National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities Definition of Learning Disabilities

Learning disabilities is a general term that refers to a heterogeneous group of disorders manifested by significant difficulties in the acquisition and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning, or mathematical abilities. These disorders are intrinsic to the individual, presumed to be due to central nervous system dysfunction, and may occur across the life span. Problems in self-regulatory behaviors, social perception, and social interaction may exist with learning disabilities but do not by themselves constitute a learning disability. Although learning disabilities may occur concomitantly with other disabilities (for example, sensory impairment, intellectual disabilities, emotional disturbance), or with extrinsic influences (such as cultural or linguistic differences, insufficient or inappropriate instruction), they are not the result of those conditions or influences.  

Adopted 1990; Updated 2016

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