

Frequently Asked Questions About Learning Disorders

What are some common myths about Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder?

Myth: Students identified as having learning or attention disorders are not very smart and cannot learn the same information as their more typical student peers.

Fact: This is simply not true. These students typically have average or even above average intelligence and with learned strategies can successfully master standard curriculum.

Myth: Learning Disabilities (LD) and Attention Deficit Disorders (ADD) are just an excuse for irresponsible, unmotivated or lazy people.

Fact: Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorders are caused by neurological impairments not character flaws. For some people with LD and ADD, the effort required to get through a day can

be exhausting in and of itself. The motivation and effort required to do what others take for granted can be enormous.

Myth: All people with Attention Deficit Disorder are hyperactive.

Fact: Not all people with Attention Deficit Disorder are hyperactive and constantly in motion, many are considered to have undifferentiated ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder without hyperactivity). Because these children do not behave in the same way as hyperactive ADD students, their disorder frequently is not recognized and they are often falsely labelled of being unmotivated or lazy.

Myth: Adults with Learning Disorders and Attention Deficit Disorder cannot succeed in higher education.

Fact: More and more adults with LD and ADD are going to college or university and succeeding. With proper accommodations and support, adults with common learning disabilities can succeed in achieving success in higher education.

Can my child be cured of having a learning disability?

Having a learning disability is life-long, however, students can be taught strategies that, if utilized, can help the student be successful in whatever endeavor they choose.

Do learning disabilities occur in isolation?

Many students have a disability in only one area, however, they can also have multiple areas of difficulty such as reading, writing and math. There is often co-morbidity (the presence of two or more disorders) of

learning and learning-related diagnosis (i.e. specific learning disability and language impairment, or Autistic Spectrum Disorder and Attention Deficit Disorder, etc.).

Once diagnosed, how can I help my child with a Learning Disability or Attention Deficit Disorder?

- Give acceptance to your child and show that you expect them to be successful in life no matter their learning differences. Ensure that they receive the appropriate support that they need and advocate on their behalf to receive needed services.
- Accept your child's individuality and focus on their strengths while reinforcing their capability to succeed.
- Seek guidance from qualified professionals and then apply those principles to your individual student. 🧩

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