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100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!

Just What Is a Learning Disability, Anyway?

By Sandy Gauvin

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A learning disability is defined as a permanent problem that affects a person with average to above average intelligence, in the way that he/she receives, stores, and processes information.

There are many wrong ideas out there about learning disabilities.

1) A learning disability will go away in time.

Unfortunately, this is not true. The good news is, you can learn ways to get around the problem. For example, kids who have trouble taking notes in class, like Michele did, can record the class on audiotape. Or, other students can make copies of the notes they have taken for them. The teacher can make copies the notes they are lecturing from. Or, when the notes are written down on an overhead transparency during the lecture, they can be copied after class and given to the student.

For children who have trouble reading, tapes of many of the textbooks are made available through the publishing companies. At one school where I taught, volunteers did the taping. We also used tapes that were recorded by a company called Recordings for the Blind.

2) A person with a learning disability has a low IQ.

Again, not true. In order for a person to have a learning disability, they have to have an average or better IQ. There are many people who, although they intelligent, just cannot learn as well as their IQ suggests they should. I've told my students for a long time that having a learning disability is really a compliment because it means that they are very smart! But, since a negative by-product of a learning disability is often low self-esteem, they didn't always believe me.

Remember: the self-esteem issue is as important to deal with as the learning disability itself!

3) A person with a learning disability is just lazy.

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There has to be a reason why the person with LD doesn't learn the way he should. Perhaps his brain doesn't process the information the right way. He may process information much slower than other people. Or he may not be able to process what he sees effectively. Some people can't process what they hear as well as what they see. Other people can't remember information unless it's repeated again and again, and some people have real trouble getting the information out of that filing system they have in their brain.

Typically people with learning disabilities work harder than others – but with lesser results. It's not about hard work – it's a learning disability.

4) A person with a learning disability can't do anything right.

Even though a child may have a learning disability in one or two areas, it doesn't mean they can't do anything right. My daughter struggled with a disability in math, but what a wonderful writer she is! And she has more knowledge about how to get around a computer than many people have. I envy that ability because I think I have a learning disability in that area!

I've known students who, even though they struggled with math or reading, were excellent around heavy equipment or automobile engines or carpentry or drafting. Many could do things with a computer that seemed impossible.

The important thing is that, if your child has a learning disability, or even if you suspect he might have one, learn everything you can so that you will know what to expect and what not to expect from him as well as from his teachers and his educational program. That way you will be able to understand and help him in the best way possible.

While none of us wants to consider the fact that our child might have a learning disability, it's the intelligent approach to take. When you recognize the truth about learning disabilities, you'll know how to maximize your child's abilities and minimize their dis-abilities.

For ways to be an advocate for your child, read "Advocating For Your Child With LD" at www.LDPerspectives.com.

Sandy Gauvin is a retired educator who has seen learning disabilities from many perspectives – as the parent of a daughter with learning disabilities, as the teacher of children with learning disabilities, and as an advocate for others who have diagnosed and unrecognized learning disabilities. Sandy shares her wisdom and her resources at www.LDPerspectives.com

That;s Funny, You Don't Look Like You have a Disability

By Lynda Appell

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That's Funny You don't Look Like You Have a DisABILITY

Editorial about how invisible disabilities are just as much disabilities as visible ones.

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Any one who can see that
a man, woman, boy, girl who is in a wheel chair has a visible disability.
Like wise seeing some one using a cane either as a walking aid or as help
for someone who is blind.

Conversely someone who has
an invisible disability, be it a learning disorder, a mental illness under
control with treatment, a person with chronic debilitating pain and many
other examples, too numerous to mention, are seen unless their disability
is known as not having anything disabling about them.

I am not implying that persons
with handicaps that are not readily seen are more disabled than those with
a handicap that is readily visible.

What I am saying that both
visible and invisible disabilities can both be a hardship and at times
even devastating to the individual.

Just because a disability
can not be seen doesn't mean it's any less disabling than one that can
be seen by most people.

This doesn't doesn't necessarily
mean more so. It means that a visibility of disability should not be the sole criteria
of who is considered disabled.

To me there is one very
important exception to the above. The person with an invisible disability

has to deal with not only their disability but the public's attitude toward
it. For it's easy to realize some one who is physically challenged as being
impaired. It's harder to realize that a person who may look normal may
also have an impairment.

Disabled disability activist for over twelve years in my local Community Support Program and Artists

for Recovery.



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