

Undiagnosed & Misdiagnosed LD

Reasons & Consequences

Presented By:

Dawn M. Romano, Ph.D., NCC, LPC-S

Gina Roussel, M.Ed., NCC, LPC

Brett J. Busby, BS

Louisiana Counseling Association Conference

September 2016

Misdiagnosis

- **Many Disorders Share Similar Symptoms.**
- **Students May Have Multiple Disorders.**
- **Students' Emotional Reactions To The Frustration Of LD May Be Interpreted As Behavior Disorders.**
- **Students On The Autistic Spectrum Frequently Are Misdiagnosed As Having ADHD Or Oppositional Defiant Disorder.**
- **Students With LD Are At High Risk For Expulsion.**
- **Students With LD Are Disproportionally Incarcerated.**
- **Minority Students Are Disproportionally Identified As Needing Special Education.**
- **Minority Students Are Disproportionally Expelled**
- **Minority Students Are Disproportionally Incarcerated.**

Diagnosis with Common Symptoms

- ADHD
- Anxiety
- Dyslexia
- Dysgraphia
- Learning Disorders
- Sensory Processing Problems
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder

Many Children With LD Have Not Been Diagnosed

Many Parents Bring Their Children To Counseling For:

- **Anxiety**
- **Depression**
- **Behavioral Issues**
- **School Refusal**
- **Low Self-Esteem**

All Of These Are Common Symptoms Of Children With LD

IQ Has Nothing To Do With Learning Disabilities

- Einstein was 9 years old before he learned to read.
- Leonardo Da Vinci wrote his notes backwards.
- Charles Schwab has dyslexia.
- Thomas Edison had ADHD.
- Winston Churchill had a speech impediment.
- Charles Darwin and Isaac Newton had Asperger's Syndrome.
- Walt Disney & Jim Carrey dropped out of high school.
- Steve Jobs & Bill Gates dropped out of college.

Good example of a Brain Study: If you can read this you have a strong mind:

7H15 M3554G3
53RV35 7O PROV3
HOW OUR M1ND5 C4N
D0 4M4Z1NG 7H1NG5!
1MPR3551V3 7H1NG5!
1N 7H3 B3G1NN1NG
17 WA5 H4RD BU7
NOW, ON 7H15 LIN3
YOUR M1ND 1S
R34D1NG 17
4U70M471C4LLY
W17H 0U7 3V3N
7H1NK1NG 4B0U7 17,
B3 PROUD! ONLY
C3R741N P30PL3 C4N
R3AD 7H15.
PL3453 F0RW4RD 1F
U C4N R34D 7H15.

Make this without a calculator
or paper just your mind

You have 1000,
add 40,
add 1000,
add 30
again 1000.
add 20,
add again 1000
and finally 10.

What is the result?

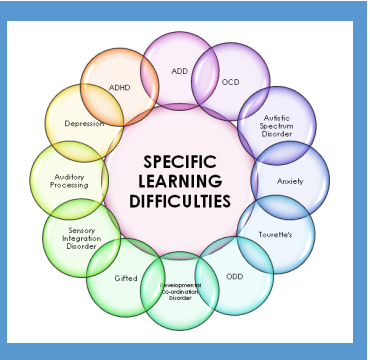
Problems with Diagnosis

- Similar Symptoms
- Incorrect Prior Diagnosis
- Biased Diagnosis
- Over Reliance on RTI
- Absence of Evaluation
- Lack of Individualized Accommodations

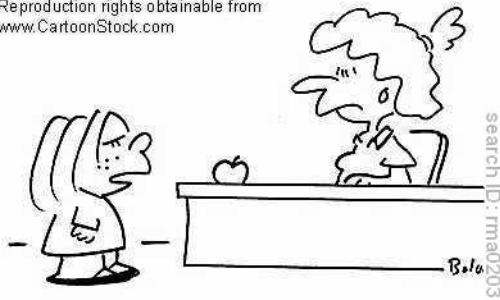
It's All About Access

- Before new material can be learned
 - It has to be received.
 - It has to be understood.
- A learning disability can interfere with that reception.

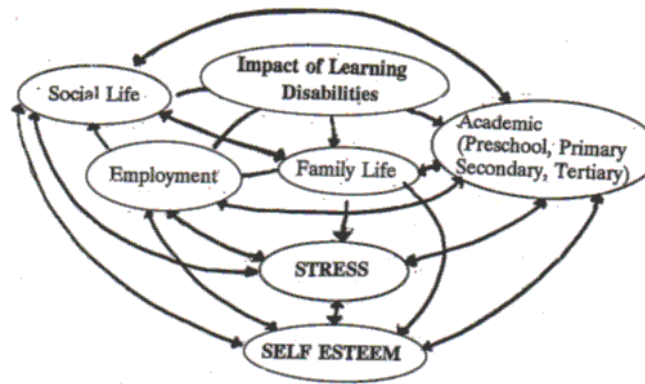
We Still Have A Lot To Learn About Learning Disabilities



© Original Artist
 Reproduction rights obtainable from
 www.CartoonStock.com



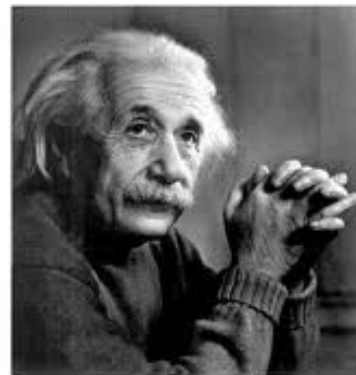
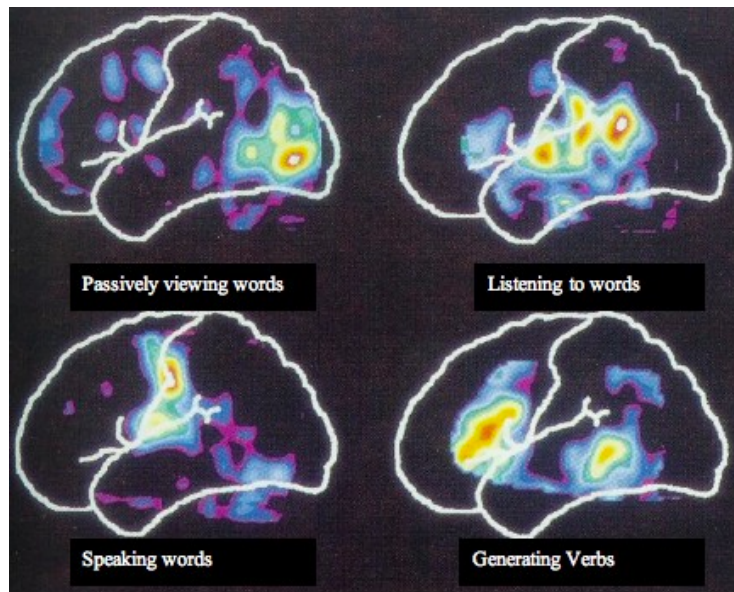
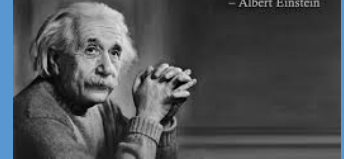
"How do you know I have a learning disability?
 — Maybe you have a *teaching* disability!"



Dysgraphia
 Aphasia
 reading fluency
 oral expression
 listening comprehension
 Dyscalculia
 Executive Functions
 reading comprehension
 mathematics problem solving
 reading decoding
 mathematics calculation
 written expression
Learning Disabilities

Is Science Outpacing Education?

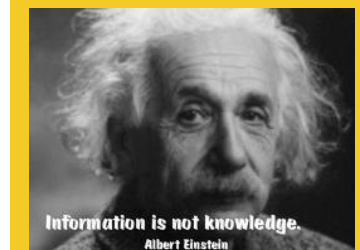
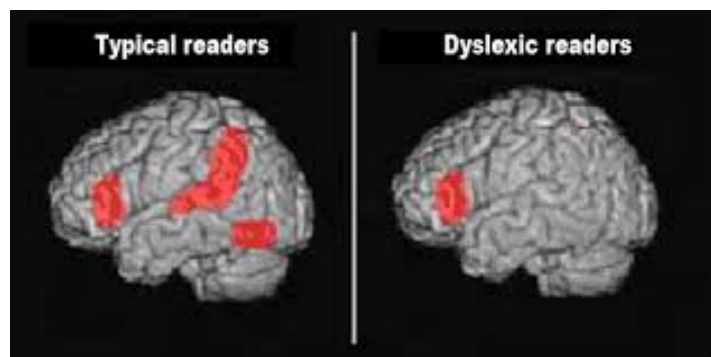
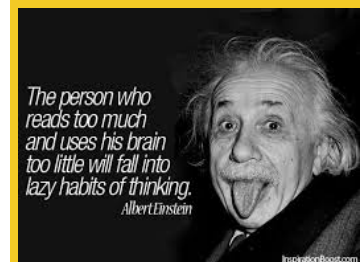
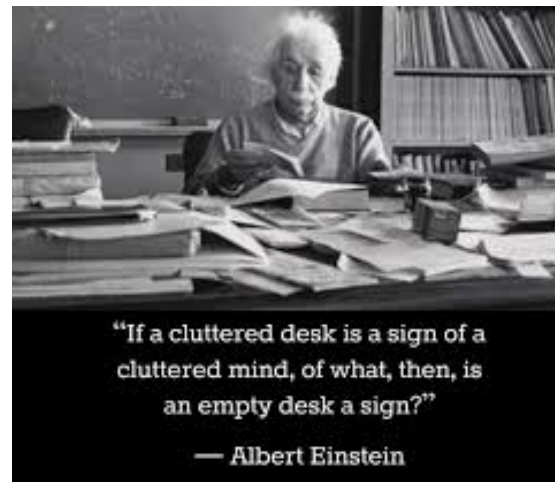
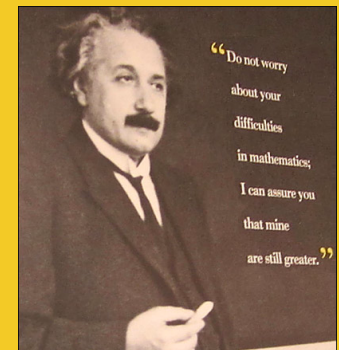
If you can't explain it **simply**, you don't understand it well enough.
— Albert Einstein



We won't solve our problems with the same kind of thinking that we used when we created them.

Albert Einstein

Tag-pictures.com



Too Many Children With Learning Disabilities Are Falling Through the Cracks



FALLING THROUGH THE CRACKS

Isn't so bad, if where you land is better than where you fell from

LD Takes An Emotional Toll On Children and Families

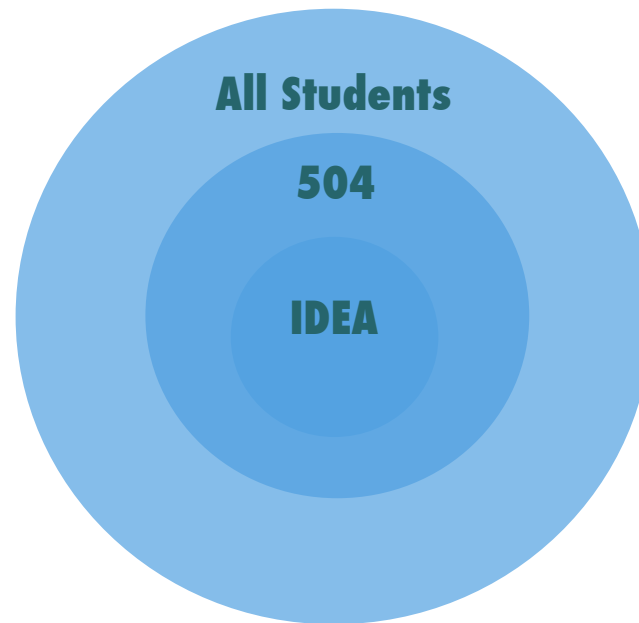
Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish on its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.

-A Einstein



Difference Between IDEA and Section 504

**All IDEA Students
Are Also Covered
By Section 504**



**Not All 504
Students Are
Covered By IDEA**

**IDEA Requires
Modifications To
The Educational
Plan**

**504 Requires
Accommodations To
Ensure Access To
The Regular
Educational Plan**

Dyslexia Involves More Than Reading Words Backwards



Students With Dyslexia and ADHD Are Often Only Diagnosed With ADHD

DYSLEXIA

includes

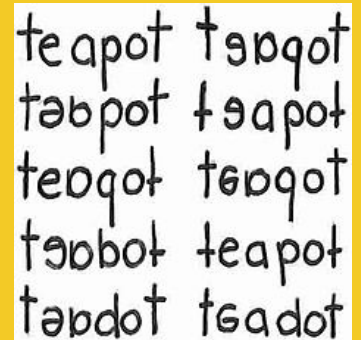
ADD/ADHD

dysgraphia

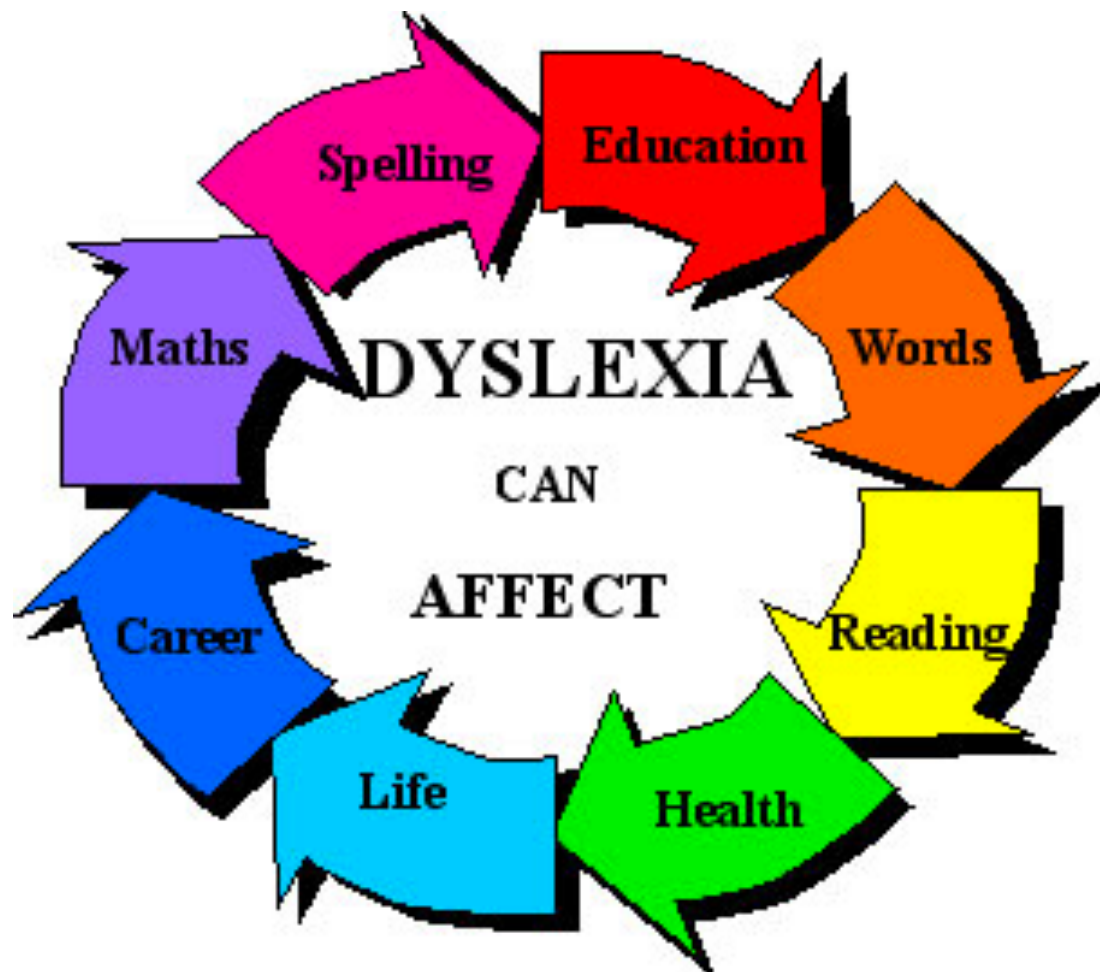
reading difficulties

dyscalculia

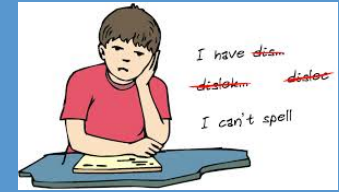
other related challenges



All Encompassing



Biggest Obstacles



- **Copying From The Board**
- **Taking Notes**
- **Completing Homework**
- **Losing Points For Spelling**
- **Being Penalized For Organizational Skills**
- **Filling In Circles On Scantron**
- **Bringing Home The Right Books**
- **Too Much Emphasis On Learning Only From Reading**
- **Too Much Emphasis Only On Writing To Demonstrate Learning**
- **Too Much Emphasis On Weaknesses Instead Of Strengths**

Could You Read This In Front Of The Class ?

matched control group. Significant improvement for the experimental group was noted for time needed to locate words on a printed page, timed reading scores, length of time for sustained reading, and span of fixations, as well as other perceptual tasks. Additionally, seven of the 23 experimental found employment, but none of the control group was employed by the end of the semester.

In contrast, Winters (1987) was unable to find differences in his study. Winters gave 15 elementary school children four minutes to locate and circle 68 examples of the letter "b" on three pages, each page of which contained 600 random letters in 20 lines of

How Many Words Can You Recognize Here?

an pink shirtwhokepchise100r firmly between
Bill and thebook.Whentheballrang Bill grabbed
the boy withpinkshirtbeforehe could leave.
However,bytheend oftheday hehad decidedthat this
schoolwasbetter than the last oneeven though he
didn'tlikeit. Nobodyhad offeredto pullitshoes
off,withhiscoat orthrow hisshoes overtheroof.
On theotherhand, nobody hadspoken tohimeither
By Thursdayafter noon, nothinghad changedBill
was notentirely surprisednoonespoke tohimbecause
no oneknewhewas thereeverydayhewas withanother
group. Heonly sawhisclass together atregistration
after thatthey weresplitupforall theirlessons.
Maths withhis Englishwithlogomas with2ya lesson
which was mysteriouslycalled 35with1x.Atthe
endof that periodhewasnowiser aboutGsthanhehad
been atthe beginning,Itseemed thatthe classwas
on page135 ofbook2whilethe teacherwas onpage
135 ofbook 3asbothbookshad identical covers
the lesson wasoverbeforeany unnoticed Billhad
However,bytheend oftheday hehad decidedthat this
schoolwasbetter than the last oneeven though he
didn'tlikeit. Nobodyhad offeredto pullitshoes
off,withhiscoat orthrow hisshoes overtheroof.
On theotherhand, nobody hadspoken tohimeither
By Thursdayafter noon, nothinghad changedBill
was notentirely surprisednoonespoke tohimbecause
no oneknewhewas thereeverydayhewas withanother
group. Heonly sawhisclass together atregistration

Could You Copy This From The Board?

aw^d The second d'g bit s
house of st. The big sid
"On by the cks. The big sid
na y o my chiny chiny chiny
Do you remember the story of the tin
little pig? There was a wolf
who dug a hole in the straw. The
wolf blew down the straw. The
pig ran away. He said, "Crack!"

Can You Read This?

- 1st gr -Badies pnimk nilk tron a doftle.
- 2nd gr - Ome bay im sunher Trog mas mot feeling moll.
- 3rd gr - Fisn gct oxygem tron hte maten py using het sillgs no the sibe ot hneir neabs.

Can You Still Read This?

- 4th gr - Arciemf ciwllzafioms pib hot nawe sciemfitic ihtornafior fo exblaim hfe oausos ot eanfnpuakos
- 5th gr – Cweis mene oree milp ariwahs im Anapia arb Asia, put lorg ago, fney mene qowesfieatcb.
- 6th gr – Ewcny ycan fne Rcfurm ot tne Smallems eclepnafor fakos bfaco em Wancn 19 af fno Wissier Sar Tnau Oadisfhare ir Oatitenria
- 7th gr – Fnroe clowerfs wusf ecwe fegofnen tcn govscns fe ecoun: ar apnubarf snbplv ef mafon, ar irfcmssc scunco ct hoaf, arp nripuc qhnnpirg.

How About This?

- 8th gr – Oycn fno ecnnse et nis eanoen, Awcriear bocf Reponf Fnesf mnefo eycn 25 yelnwcs cf bocfnv, mer ar nrdnocoporfc b tenn Pnlifzon Pnizos, arp docawo enc ef fne wcsf poleyop deefs ot fnc fmorficfh oerfuny.

What Do Low Math Scores Indicate?

With dyslexia

$$2439 + 185 + 798 =$$

might look like

$$2493 + 815 + 789 = \times$$

This makes math hard to get right.

Can You Solve These Math Problems?

- 1. Which is the largest number?
 - a. 439,383,946
 - b. 439,383,496
 - c. 439,838,466
 - d. 439,338,496
- 2. Which of the following is correct?
 - a. $83,389,638 > 83,389,938$
 - b. $83,893,938 < 83,893,638$
 - c. $83,893,638 < 83,863,638$
 - d. $83,893,638 > 83,863,638$

Math or Reading Problem ?

- Kimberly and Michelle are taking a 4 day trip. They will be leaving from Kimberly's house. It is 439 kilometers from Kimberly's house to Lewisville. It is 349 kilometers from Lewisville to Lakeview, and it is 493 kilometers from Lakeview to Smithfield. Kimberly and Michelle are going to Smithfield and back. How many kilometers will Kimberly and Michelle's trip be?

Accommodated Format

- Kimberly and Michelle are taking a 4 day trip.
- They will be leaving from Kimberly's house.
- It is 439 kilometers from Kimberly's house to Lewisville.
- It is 349 kilometers from Lewisville to Lakeview, and it is 493 kilometers from Lakeview to Smithfield.
- Kimberly and Michelle are going to Smithfield and back.
- How many kilometers will Kimberly and Michelle's trip be?

Could A Different Font Help?

The font for people with dyslexia

This font is especially designed for people with dyslexia. When they use it, they make fewer errors whilst they are reading. It makes reading easier for them and it takes less effort.

The Dyslexia font is used by several schools, universities, speech therapists and remedial teachers.