

Do you suspect that you may have a Learning Disability?

Check below if any of these characteristics of students with learning disabilities describes you:

- Long term difficulty in reading, writing, spelling, grammatical usage, and/or using numerical concepts in contrast with average or superior skills in other areas.
- Excessive difficulty in learning a foreign language. Earned very poor grades in this area.
- Is easily distracted by background noise or visual stimulation; has difficulty concentrating.
- Confuses similar letters, numeral or words such as bad and dad, then or them, b and d.
- Difficulty recalling common words; uses hands a lot and call things: "what-cha-ma-call-it" or "thing-a-ma-jig".
- Takes two or three times longer to read than other people. Has to go back two or three times to understand what was read.
- Verbal skills far exceed reading, spelling, and writing skills.
- Poor handwriting: inconsistent slants, shapes and sizes of letters. Mixes lower and upper case letters and cursive and manuscript letters.
- Severe inability to spell or to recall irregularly spelled words.
- Difficulty with mathematical concepts including calculation, time and space.
- Difficulty taking notes and listening to lectures at the same time.
- Slowed processing of information: needs "think time" to respond to questions, to retrieve information or to solve problems.
- Poor organizational skills, including organizing thoughts on a page.
- Severe difficulty reading multiple choice questions; easily confused by double negatives.

If you checked 4 or more characteristics, you may wish to make an appointment with an LD Specialist to find out more about the Santa Monica Learning Disabilities Program. Call (310) 434-4684 or come by MC 75.

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This checklist was developed by Dr. Arline Halper, coordinator at the UCLA Learning Disabilities Program