

Definition:

Children have a learning difficulty if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age.
(SEN Code of Practice 2001)

These difficulties will manifest in all areas of the curriculum, will be long term and will require on-going, targeted intervention in order for the pupils to make progress with their learning.

Characteristics seen in the classroom:

- The pupil will be significantly below nationally expected levels in most areas of the curriculum
- Will experience great difficulty in acquiring basic literacy and numeracy skills
- May have speech and language delay and restricted vocabulary
- May have poor concentration span
- May have low levels of self esteem
- May have limited visual, auditory and short term memory
- May have poor listening skills
- May show little initiative and have limited reasoning ability
- May have poor imagination

Where to go for help:

- Educational Psychology Service
- LAB 21 – LSAT Service
- Woodlands Outreach Service
- Severndale Outreach Service

Cognition and Learning Difficulties

General/Moderate Learning Difficulties

Assessment and Diagnosis:

A professional making a diagnosis of MLD should either be an Educational Psychologist or a specialist teacher. An I.Q. score of between 50 and 70 would be an indicator, together with very low scores in a range of areas of learning, for example reading, phonics, spelling, working memory, processing speed, level of cognitive functioning and understanding and use of language.

Standardised tests which may be used include: Wide Range Intelligence Test (WRIT), Wide Range Achievement Test (WRAT), British Picture Vocabulary Scales 3rd edition (BPVS), Ravens Matrices, Neale Analysis of Reading Ability (NARA), Salford Sentence Reading (revised), Phonological Abilities Test (PAT), Graded Word Spelling Test, Cognitive Abilities Test 3, Kaufman Brief Intelligence Test (K-BIT2)

Frequently used Interventions:

- Paired reading
- Fischer Family Trust Wave 3 Literacy Intervention Programme for Year 1
- Fischer Family Trust Hi Five literacy programme for Year 5
- Precision Teaching – Minute A Day
- Read Write Inc
- Dockside Reading Scheme
- Attack Spelling
- Stairway to Spelling
- Starspell
- Numicon (maths)
- Wave 3 Maths Pack - NNS
- Success Maker (secondary)
- Lexia (secondary)