

# Learning Disabilities and Literacy

Learning Disabilities refer to a number of disorders which may affect the acquisition, organization, understanding or use of verbal or nonverbal information.

These disabilities result from impairments in one or more processes related to perceiving, thinking, remembering or learning, and may also involve difficulties with organizational skills, social perception, social interaction and perspective thinking.

Statistics Canada reports that 3.2% of Canadian Children have a learning disability, but it is estimated that the actual number is significantly higher. The gap in estimated/reported is believed to be caused by:

- Lack of awareness of learning disabilities and how to identify them.
- People learning to accommodate any learning difficulties and then believing there is no longer a problem.
- Social stigma discouraging people to report their learning disabilities.

All people should attempt to understand the challenges that people with learning disabilities face on an everyday basis.

Assistance can be provided to people with learning disabilities by:

- o making assessment and diagnosis accessible for all people
- o teachers/instructors using methods and resources that meet the needs of individual learners
- o learning programs that are flexible enough to meet the needs of learners who have learning disabilities

Between 2001 and 2006, the number of Canadians with a learning disability rose almost 40%.

Learning disabilities influence the lives of children, adolescents, young adults and adults. However, the way in which they are expressed may vary over a lifetime.

Learning disabilities are lifelong, and it is never too late to get help for a learning disability.

Learning disabilities should not hinder a person from attaining goals.

For success, individuals with learning disabilities require early identification and timely specialized assessments and interventions.

Anyone who has a learning disability is capable of learning. They just need to have supports from their instructor/teachers to help them engage in the learning process.

Information obtained from: Learning Disabilities Association of Canada - [www.ldac.ca](http://www.ldac.ca)