

**GUIDED LECTURE NOTES
LOW INCIDENCE DISABILITIES**

Autism

Definition:

A developmental disability significantly affecting verbal/nonverbal communication and social interaction. Evident at age 3. Adversely affects child's performance.

Characteristics

- Engagement in repetitive activities and movements.
- Resistance to environmental change or change in daily routines.
- Unusual responses to sensory experiences
- Affective and cognitive indifference – avoids eye contact, does not like to be hugged, likes to spin objects like lids, tops, etc.
- Expressive affect – Cries on happy occasions. Cries and screams when desires are not met.
- Passive affect – Walks on tiptoes, twirls, and overreacts to environmental changes
- Anxiety and fears – Has excessive fear of loud sounds or noises
- Cognition – Exhibits unique speech patterns, low intellectual functioning.

Other Health Impaired

Definition:

Limited strength, vitality, or alertness due to chronic or acute health problems - which adversely affects educational performance

Characteristics

- A heart condition,
- Tuberculosis,
- Rheumatic fever,
- Asthma,
- Sickle cell anemia,
- Epilepsy,
- Leukemia

Orthopedically Impaired

Definition:

A severe orthopedic impairment which adversely affects educational performance.

Characteristics

The term includes impairments caused by

- Congenital abnormality
- Disease

And impairments from other causes –
Fractures, burns, amputation, cerebral palsy

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Traumatic Brain Injured

Definition:

An acquired injury to the brain caused by an external physical force, resulting in total or partial functional disability or psychosocial impairment, or both – which adversely affects educational performance. Does not apply to brain injuries that are congenital or degenerative or induced by trauma at birth.

Characteristics

Applies to open or closed head injuries resulting in impairments in one or more of the following areas:

- Cognition
- Language
- Memory
- Attention
- Reasoning
- Abstract thinking
- Judgement
- Problem solving
- Sensory, perceptual and motor abilities
- Psychosocial behavior
- Physical functions
- Information processing
- Speech

Blind

Definition:

Legal blindness – refers to a person's visual acuity and field of vision. Blindness is defined as visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the person's better eye after correction.

Educational definition of blindness –
Implies that a student must use braille or other methods in order to receive instruction

Characteristics

Visual acuity of 20/200 or less with correction

Hearing Impaired/ Deafness

Definition:

Hearing Impairment:

An impairment in hearing, whether permanent or fluctuating, that adversely affects a child's educational performance, but which is not included under the definition of deafness

Deafness:

A hearing impairment that is so severe that the child is impaired in processing linguistic information through hearing, with or without amplification, that adversely affects the child's educational performance.

Characteristic

Depends on the degree of hearing loss

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Learning Disabilities

Definition:

A disorder in 1 or more of the basic psychological processes used in understanding or in using language, spoken or written

Characteristics:

A SLD may manifest itself in an imperfect ability to listen, think, speak, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculations.
Average or better intelligence.

Academic Difficulties:

15 pt. Discrepancy between IQ & academic performance
Poor handwriting
Reading problems
Processing problems – reading comprehension
Oral expression
Listening comprehension
Written expression

Social-Emotional Difficulties:

May be easily distracted
Hyperactivity
Low self-concept
Learned helplessness
Motivation
Behavioral problems
Social problems

Cognitive Difficulties:

Difficulty with coordination – gross motor
Organizational problems
Perceptual
Memory
Problem solving
Metacognition

Behavior/Emotional Disabilities

Definition:

An inability to learn that cannot be explained by intellectual, sensory, or health factors;
An inability to build or maintain satisfactory interpersonal relationships with peers and teachers;
Inappropriate types of behavior or feelings under normal circumstances;
A general pervasive mood of unhappiness or depression
A tendency to develop physical symptoms or fears associated with personal or school problems.

Characteristics:

- Hyperactivity (short attention span, impulsiveness);
- Aggression/self-injurious behavior (acting out, fighting);
- Withdrawal (failure to initiate interaction with others; retreat from exchanges of social interaction, excessive fear or anxiety)
- Immaturity (inappropriate crying, temper tantrums, poor coping skills);
- Learning difficulties (academically performing below grade level)

Children with more severe emotional disturbances may experience:

- Excessive anxiety
- Bizarre motor acts
Abnormal mood swings

* some children may also have severe psychosis or schizophrenia

Mental Disabilities

Definition:

An individual is considered to have mental disabilities based on the following 3 criteria:

1. Intellectual functioning (IQ is below 72)
2. Significant limitations in 2 or more adaptive skills areas
3. Condition is present from childhood (age 18 or less)

Characteristics

- Communication skills
- Physical Dimensions
- Social Adjustments
- Independent Functioning
- Academic Performance

Specifically-

Sustaining attention
Use of Mediation Strategies
Memory
Generalized Learning
Motivation
Cognitive Development
Language Development
Social Skills & Behavior

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Attention Deficit Disorder
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Definition:

ADD = Attention Deficit Disorder is typically found in students that experience difficulty sustaining prolonged attention to task and/or process information at such a rate that information retrieval is fragmented at best.

ADHD = Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder typically includes difficulty with attending to task, hyperactivity and impulsivity, or both.

Characteristics

Predominately Inattentive:

- Fails to give close attention to details
- Difficulty sustaining attention
- **Does not seem to listen**
- Does not follow directions/instructions
- Has difficulty organizing tasks
- Avoids/Procrastinates in engaging in tasks
- Loses necessary things for tasks
- Easily distracted by external stimuli
- Forgetful

Predominately Hyperactive-Impulsive:

- Fidgets with hands and squirms
- Frequently leaves seat
- **Runs about or climbs excessively**
- Difficulty playing or engaging in leisure activities
- Talks excessively
- **Driven by a constant "motor"**
- Blurts out answers prematurely
- Difficulty waiting in lines
- Interrupts or intrudes on others

Gifted

Definition:

Children/youth with outstanding talent who performs or demonstrates the potential for performing at remarkably high levels of accomplishment when compared with others of their age, experience, or environment.

Characteristics

Children/youth who exhibit high performance capability in intellectual, creative and/or artistic areas, possess an unusual leadership capacity, or excel in specific academic fields.

Typically, children/youth that demonstrate a talent possess one or more of the following characteristics:

- Above average ability
- Task commitment
- Creativity

Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences

May also be areas of strength for students who are gifted:

- Logical-Mathematical
- Linguistic
- Musical
- Spatial
- Bodily-Kinesthetic
- Interpersonal
- Intrapersonal

Speech & Language Impairment

Definition:

Speech or language impairment means a communication disorder such as stuttering, impaired articulation, a language impairment, or a voice impairment that adversely affects a child's educational performance.

Characteristics

3 Main types of speech disorders:

- **Articulation**
Distortions,
Substitutions
Omissions
Additions
- **Voice disorders**
Uncommon in childhood
Abnormalities of speech related to volume, quality, or pitch
- **Fluency Disorders**
Most young children display dysfluencies
Most common type is stuttering

Types of Language Disorders:

- Phonology
- Morphology
- Syntax
- Semantics
- Pragmatics