

Characteristics of Adults with Learning Challenges



Developed by Adult Basic Education Association (ABEA), 2012

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General

- has great strengths in some areas but great weaknesses in others
- performs similar tasks differently from day to day
- has a short attention span, is impulsive, or is distractible
- learns something one day but cannot remember it the next day
- misinterprets directions or instructions
- has difficulty following a schedule or has difficulty being on time
- has difficulty organizing
- has difficulty following directions with more than one step
- has difficulty thinking in an orderly and/or logical manner
- takes everything said literally
- misinterprets social cues
- has difficulties with direction (left/right, north/south, gets lost easily)

Reading, Writing and Math Skills

- reads well but does not write well
- has difficulty keeping their place when reading, following columns, or following small print
- has difficulty sounding out words
- has difficulty understanding what is read
- has difficulty writing ideas on paper but is able to express themselves orally
- has persistent problems with spelling
- often misreads or miscopies
- has persistent problems with sentence structure, writing mechanics, and organizing writing
- confuses similar letters or numbers, reverse them, or confuse their order