

NOT ALL DISABILITIES CAN BE SEEN

# SIGNS YOUR CHILD MIGHT NEED A 504 PLAN OR IEP:

ELEMENTARY AGE CHILDREN

---

Families Helping Families of Greater  
New Orleans | Louisiana Parent  
Training & Information Center  
700 Hickory Avenue  
Harahan, LA 70123  
504.888.9111 | 800.766.7736  
Email: [info@fhfofgno.org](mailto:info@fhfofgno.org)  
[www.fhfofgno.org](http://www.fhfofgno.org)

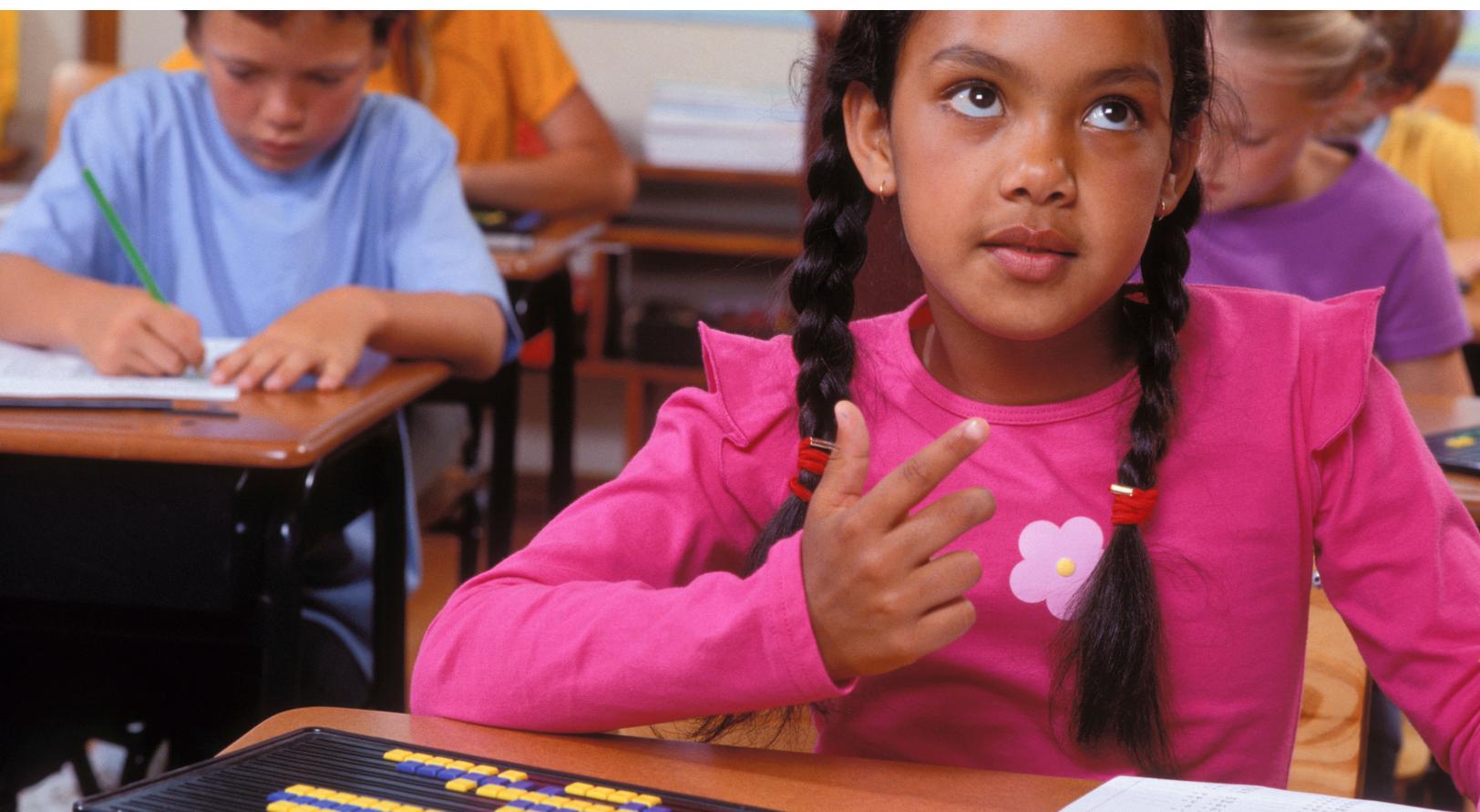


Changing Lives. Every Day.

For some parents, they know their child will need extra support in school from the day they are born. For others, it isn't always so easy. Students born with what we refer to as "hidden disabilities" are often the most difficult to get evaluated and often get left behind and written off as lazy and unmotivated. Sometimes these difficulties are obvious when a child is very young, and for others, the difficulties don't surface until later in their school career – but learning disabilities can occur at any time. Learning disabilities are very real, and children with learning disabilities like Attention Deficit Disorder, Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Executive Functional Skills, Auditory/Visual Processing Deficits, and others often impact how successful a student will be in class. Lack of reading skills is the number one reason children need special services.

Below are some warning signs that your child might need to be evaluated for a hidden disability:

- Slow learning letter sounds
- Consistent errors in reading and/or spelling
- Difficulty remembering basic sight words
- Inability to retell a story in sequence
- Trouble learning to tell time or count money



- Confusion of math signs
- Transposition of number sequences
- Trouble memorizing math facts
- Trouble with place value
- Unusual sloppiness, carelessness
- Poor concept of direction
- Rejection of new concepts, or changes in routine
- Difficulty understanding social situations
- Experiencing discipline problems
- Trouble with math operational steps, like long division
- Poor coordination
- Difficulty copying from board
- Difficulty aligning columns
- Poor handwriting
- Difficulty concentrating or focusing on a task
- Difficulty finishing work on time
- Inability to follow multiple directions
- Difficulty understanding facial expressions or gestures
- Tendency to misinterpret behavior of peers and/or adults
- Apparent lack of “common sense”

These lists are not meant to be inclusive of every warning sign, but as a good starting point if you have concerns. If you feel your child exhibits some of the warning signs listed above, you have the right to request a formal evaluation, free of cost to you, by your local education agency. This request should be in writing, so you have written documentation of your request. Evidenced-based research shows the sooner a disability is detected, and appropriate support is provided, the more successful a child will be in adult life.

If you need additional information or assistance requesting an evaluation, you can contact **Louisiana Parent Training and Information Center**, a program of **Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans** at **504.888.9111; 800.766.7736; info@fhfofgno.org; or www.fhfofgno.org.**