

NOT ALL DISABILITIES CAN BE SEEN

SIGNS YOUR CHILD MIGHT NEED A 504 PLAN OR IEP:

PRESCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

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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 development in speaking
- Pronunciation problems
- Difficulty learning new words
- Difficulty following simple directions
- Difficulty understanding questions



- Difficulty expressing wants and desires
- Difficulty rhyming words
- Lack of interest in storytelling.
- Clumsiness
- Poor Balance
- Difficulty manipulating small objects
- Awkwardness with running, jumping or climbing
- Trouble learning to tie shoes, button shirts and other self help skills
- Avoidance of drawing
- Trouble memorizing the alphabet, numbers or days of the week
- Poor memory of daily routine
- Difficulty with sequencing and counting
- Difficulty with basic concepts such as size, shape and color
- High distractibility
- Impulsive behavior
- Unusual restlessness
- Difficulty staying on task
- Difficulty changing activities
- Lack of Social Behavior
- Prone to sudden and extreme mood changes
- Easily frustrated
- Hard to manage, temper tantrums

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@fhfogn.org; or www.fhfogn.org.**