

NOT ALL DISABILITIES CAN BE SEEN

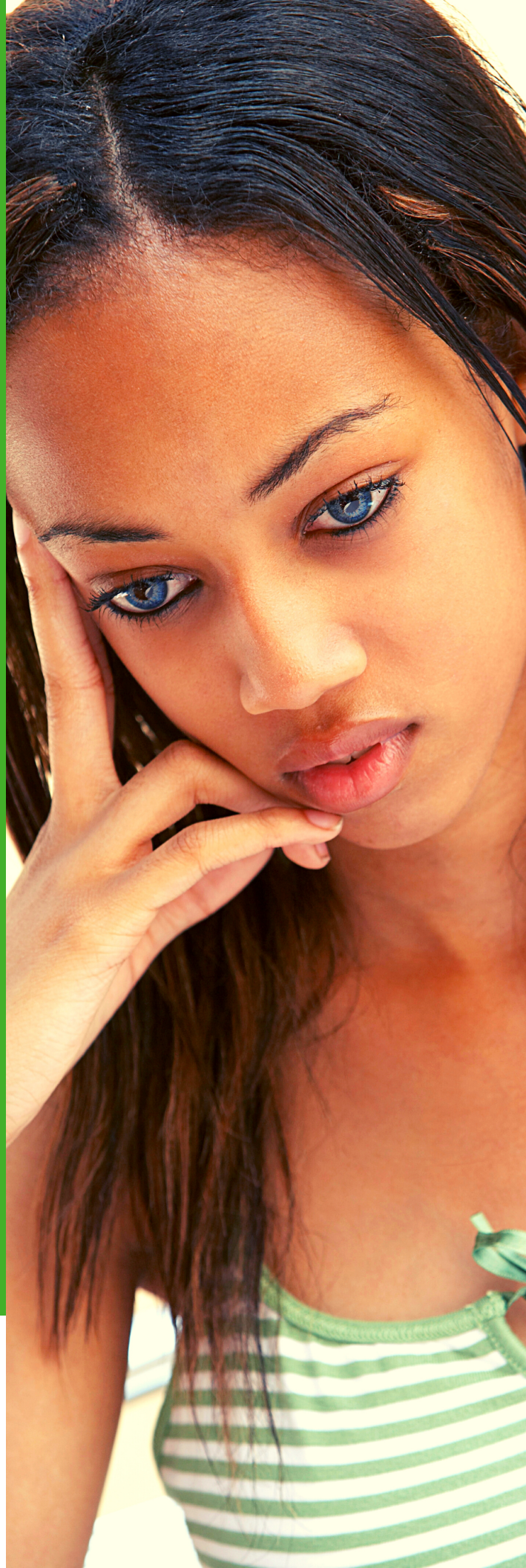
SIGNS YOUR CHILD MIGHT NEED A 504 PLAN OR IEP:

HIGH SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN

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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:

- Avoidance of reading and writing
- Tendency to misread information
- Difficult summarizing
- Poor reading comprehension
- Difficulty understanding subject area textbooks



- Trouble with open-ended questions
- Continued poor spelling
- Poor grasp of abstract concepts
- Poor skills in writing essays
- Difficulty learning foreign language
- Poor ability to apply math skills
- Difficulty staying organized
- Trouble with test formats such as multiple choice
- Slow work pace in class
- Poor note taking skills
- Poor ability to proofread or double check work
- Difficulty understanding another person's perspective
- Difficulty resisting peer pressure
- Difficulty seeking or giving feedback
- Problems negotiating or advocating for oneself

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.**