



SYMPTOM CHECKLIST FOR LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

By Drina Madden

CHILD'S NAME: _____ AGE: _____

TEACHER: _____ DATE: _____

If you check as many as 25% of the questions in a given category, it may mean that a child is experiencing some frustration with learning. It does not mean that the child is not intelligent. Note the difficulties as you make educational plans. Suggest that parents may wish to have the child evaluated by an appropriate professional. Begin with simple physical exams. If eyes and ears are okay, suggest learning specialists, medical professionals, etc.

X		ATTENTION – CONCENTRATION IMPULSIVITY – BEHAVIOR
	1	Doesn't complete tasks
	2	Acts before thinking
	3	Runs or climbs a great deal
	4	Gets mad easily
	5	Throws objects at other children
	6	Cries or has temper outbursts
	7	Shifts often from one activity to another
	8	Has trouble remaining seated
	9	Becomes angry when told to do something
	10	Difficulty sitting still
	11	Needs a lot of supervision
	12	Is easily distracted
	13	Interrupts or speaks out of turn
	14	On the go a great deal
	15	Sloppy work often (can work neatly)
	16	Inconsistency in performance
	17	Punishment is ineffective
	18	Does better in a 1:1 situation
	19	Easily excited
	20	Denies mistakes or blames others
	21	Purposefully destructive
	22	Immature for age
	23	Requires much adult supervision
	24	Becomes easily overstimulated in group situations
	25	Touches everything he sees
	26	Poor self-control
	27	Difficulty waiting turn
	28	Consistently less active than others
	29	Daydreams a lot
	30	Easily frustrated

X		HEARING, AUDITORY PROCESSING AND PERCEPTION
	1	Difficulty recognizing differences in sounds or words presented verbally
	2	Difficulty identifying rhymes
	3	Difficulty remembering directions
	4	Child's speech was late or abnormal
	5	Chronic ear infections some time from birth to age 6
	6	Late in learning colors, numbers or alphabet
	7	Others have trouble understanding child's speech
	8	Seems as though child doesn't pay attention
	9	Speaks too loud or too soft
	10	Doesn't answer when called from a distance
	11	Turns same ear in direction of a sound
	12	Family history of hearing or ear problems
	13	Complains of head noises or dizziness
	14	Asks "what" excessively
	15	Difficulty classifying or categorizing words

X		MOTOR DEVELOPMENT
	1	Awkward in running and climbing
	2	Awkward balance – standing on one foot, walking a line or low rail
	3	Rigid movements
	4	Limp body movements
	5	Lacks smoothness in walking and skipping
	6	Difficulty with hopping and skipping
	7	Difficulty learning movements and movement sequences in games
	8	Age 4 or older – still has trouble dressing self
	9	One side of body appears to move differently than the other
	10	Lacks smoothness in clapping, tapping, etc. in rhythm
	11	Difficulty in cutting, pasting, coloring
	12	Holds chalk or pencil awkwardly
	13	Strokes too heavily
	14	Strokes too lightly
	15	When child is coloring, hand not being used appears tense

X		VISUAL – PERCEPTION PROCESSING AND MOTOR
	1	Must feel things before reacting
	2	Difficulty assembling simple puzzles
	3	Difficulty staying on line or within boundaries
	4	Poor orientation of drawings on page
	5	Difficulty making simple forms
	6	Difficulty copying simple patterns
	7	Reverses or rotates angles, letters or words
	8	Difficulty matching color, form, shape or size
	9	Attention focused on unimportant detail
	10	Difficulty with visual memory
	11	Difficulty interpreting reversible letters or words

	12	Gets lost easily or confuses directions
	13	Squints or blinks frequently
	14	Difficulty catching or throwing a ball
	15	Confuses foreground and background
	16	Forgets names of shapes or colors
	17	Forgets sounds
	18	Forgets numbers
	19	Avoids sensorial and puzzle work
	20	Rubs eyes, tilts head or rotates book and papers

X		SPATIAL ORGANIZATION
	1	Disoriented in room, building and playground
	2	Inconsistent hand preference
	3	Confusion of left or right
	4	Poor knowledge of body parts
	5	Confusion with directionality (near, far, front – behind)
	6	Reaches too far or short for things
	7	Holds hands in wrong position for catching
	8	Reacts too slowly or quickly to moving stimuli (ball thrown to him)
	9	Misjudges distance in play and work activities
	10	Turns shapes, letters or numbers