

Does your child struggle to succeed at school?



Many intelligent children struggle at school. Current research indicates at least 1 out of every 10 people learns differently. They have trouble learning how to read or understanding what they have read. They may not write very well. Math may be difficult.

Your child is not alone. Winston Churchill, novelist John Irving, Jay Leno, Whoopi Goldberg and actor/director Henry Winkler are a few of the many people who have been affected by learning differences.



What should you do if you think your child struggles to learn?

Talk to your child's teacher about your concerns. Work with the teacher to develop an action plan for your child.

Meet with the school principal to discuss how your child can be supported.

Ask your principal to arrange for a formal assessment. Testing will give everyone a better understanding of your child's learning style, needs and strengths. If an assessment cannot be arranged through your child's school, consider private testing. Some workplace benefits plans cover the cost of assessment.

Once testing is complete, meet with the teacher and principal to discuss the next steps for your child. Work as a team to develop a learning plan to meet your child's education needs.

Education to support children with learning disabilities may be provided in different types of settings. Instruction may occur in regular classrooms, specialized programs in community schools, or specialized schools. There are advantages and disadvantages to each option depending on the needs of your child and family.

You are not alone. The Learning Disabilities Association of Alberta is able to answer your questions.