

Common Characteristics* of Students with Learning Disabilities

Social-Emotional Behavior

- Disruptive
- Withdrawn
- Difficulty adapting to new environments
- Frequent absences from school
- Poor social skills
- Depressed/Anxious
- Low self esteem
- Low motivation

Low Academic Achievement

- Math
- Language
- Spelling
- Writing
- Reading
- Handwriting
- Finding appropriate word when needed
- Problems with grammar

Attention, Memory & Perception

- Memory
- Attention
- Hyperactivity
- Distractibility
- Listening
- Difficulty remembering directions or facts
- Difficulty in generalizing information

Thinking and Reasoning Abilities

- Lacks learning strategies
- Needs to learn how to learn
- Does not self-regulate while learning
- Lacks organizational skills

*Students may exhibit one or more of these characteristics

(Mercer and Mercer, 2001 pp.7-8 and Mastropieri and Scruggs, 2000 pp. 80-83)