



Suggested Readings

Parenting:

Bridging the Gap: Raising a Child with Nonverbal Learning Disorder, Rondalyn Varney Whitney

Raising NLD Superstars: What Families with Nonverbal Learning Disabilities Need to Know about

Nurturing Confident, Competent Kids, Marcia Brown Rubinstien

Understanding Nonverbal Learning Disabilities: A Common-Sense Guide for Parents and Professionals, Dr. Maggie Mamen

Nonverbal Learning Disabilities at Home: A Parent's Guide, Pamela B. Tanguay

Education:

NLD From the Inside Out: Talking to Parents, Teachers, and Teens about Growing Up with Nonverbal Learning Disabilities, Michael Brian Murphy

Nonverbal Learning Disabilities at School: Educating Students With Nld, Asperger Syndrome and Related Conditions, Pamela B. Tanguay

Nonverbal Learning Disabilities: A Guide to School Success (Middle/High School), Dr. Dean Mooney, Sherry Newberry, and Nina Kurtz

Non-Verbal Learning Disabilities: Characteristics, Diagnosis and Treatment Within an Educational Setting, Marieke Molenaar-Klumper

Clinical:

Nonverbal Learning Disabilities: A Clinical Perspective, Joseph Palombo

General:

A Special Kind Of Brain: Living With Nonverbal Learning Disability, Nancy Russell

Employment for Individuals with Asperger Syndrome or Non-Verbal Learning Disability: Stories and Strategies, Yvona Fast

For more information

Learning Disabilities Association of Nova Scotia

46 Portland St. Suite 601
Dartmouth, NS B2Y 1H4

E-mail: info@ldans.ca
Phone: (902) 423-2850
Web: www.ldans.ca



Idans • Learning Disabilities Association of Nova Scotia

The right to learn, the power to achieve



NLD

Nonverbal Learning Disability

Idans • Learning Disabilities Association of Nova Scotia

The right to learn, the power to achieve



What is a nonverbal learning disability?

A nonverbal learning disability, or *NLD*, is a subtype of a learning disability. NLD is described as a neuro-developmental disorder of the right hemisphere of the brain that is present at or soon after birth.

People with non-verbal learning disabilities may have difficulty processing non-verbal, nonlinguistic information, yet they may be very good at processing verbal information. Frequently, they are excessively verbal and expressive. Since about 65% of all communication is actually nonverbal you can imagine the implications this would place on a person with NLD.

Nonverbal learning disorders (also called "right-hemisphere learning disorders") often go unrecognized and unaided by teachers and other professionals for a large part of a child's schooling.

Nonverbal learning disorders appear much less frequently than language-based learning disorders. Of the 10% of the general population that could be found to have identifiable learning disabilities, it is thought that only 1 to 10% of those individuals would be found to have NLD (or 1% of the general population).

How is NLD diagnosed?

Nonverbal learning disorders routinely go unrecognized. When people with nonverbal LD are assessed, typically their performance IQ is significantly lower than their verbal IQ because of visual-spatial weaknesses.

Nonverbal learning disabilities often go undiagnosed because reading ability tends to be regarded as the chief indicator of academic well-being by most public school systems. Because it has a pronounced effect on social interaction, as well as academic performance, nonverbal LD presents a unique challenge to parents and teachers.

What are some of the characteristics of NLD?

- Great vocabulary and verbal expression
- Excellent memory skills
- Attention to detail, but misses the big picture
- Trouble understanding reading
- Difficulty with Math, especially word problems
- Physically awkward, poor coordination
- Takes things very literally
- Trouble with nonverbal communication, like body language, facial expression and tone of voice
- Fear of new situations
- Trouble adjusting to changes
- Does not complete assigned tasks.

What are the treatment options?

Parent education regarding NLD is a high priority. Planning should encompass school, social and family issues. Some special services to be considered are:

- Occupational therapy - to develop fine motor and visual motor integration skills.
- Early speech/language therapy - very young children with NLD may have difficulty with the motor planning involved in speech production.
- Social skills groups
- Cognitive behavior therapy (CBT) - helps develop coping techniques.
- Because of the variability of individual strengths and weaknesses, some NLD children may benefit from a self-contained special education class while others should remain in a regular education class with support services.
- Teach and practice organizational skills.

Can NLD be cured?

NLD cannot be cured; however, it can be managed. The symptoms can be reduced if a combined program has been implemented and continues to be followed.

