

Signs of Learning Disabilities

Foundations of Reading

- Speech disturbances – Did the child begin to talk late (age 3 or 4)? Do words continue to be mispronounced?
- Crossed dominance – Is the child left handed? Does he seem to be dominant on both right and left sides (vision, hearing, balance, writing, leg strength, etc.)?
- Dysgraphia (poor handwriting) – Is the child better at copying than spontaneous writing? Can they read and write more easily in mirror image?
- Good intelligence but poor written work – Can the child participate with intelligent oral questions and responses while struggling with written answers?
- Excellent spelling but poor reading – Can the child spell with amazing phonetic ability while struggling with reading or sight words?
- [Difficulty in figure-ground perception](#)
- Reading is avoided but information is sought
- Unusual interest in drawing and mechanics
- Restlessness, hyperactivity, easy distracted, sluggishness, or unusual clumsiness
- Other children in the family with similar traits

Ruth Beechick recommends, before getting an official evaluation, that you try for two or three months to eliminate all prepared foods and boxed mixes and eat plain, natural, unrefined foods, eliminate sugar and soft drinks, etc. A proper nutritional regimen can help about half of learning difficulties with children.

Another kind of problem is crossed-dominance, which Ruth Beechick says affects about ten percent of children. We strongly recommend the book [Disconnected Kids](#) for more information on diagnosing and improving this condition at home.

Credits:

- Traub, Nina and Frances Bloom. *Recipe for Reading* (Cambridge, MA: Educators Publishing Service, 2000), p. 6.
- Melillo, Robert. *Disconnected Kids* (New York: Penguin, 2009).
- Beechick, Ruth. *A Biblical Home Education* (Nashville: B&H Publishing Group, 2007), pp. 109-110, 197-205.