



DCDSB Understanding & Supporting All Learners

Strategies to Help with Reading

- Work on phonics activities to help your child improve their ability to *decode* (sounding out) words
 - <https://www.ldatschool.ca/teaching-the-brain-to-read-strategies-for-enhancing-reading-decoding-fluency-and-comprehension/>
 - <https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/learning-at-home/encouraging-reading-writing/video-helping-kids-connect-letters-and-sounds-in-everyday-activities>
- Help your child review some of the most common words
 - Fry Word Lists are available here: <https://sightwords.com/sight-words/fry/#lists>
- Your child could make flash cards of these words to help the words be encoded into long-term memory
 - Games for Fry Words are available here: <https://sightwords.com/sight-words/games/bingo/>
<https://sightwords.com/sight-words/games/snakes-ladders/>
- Encourage your child to use computer programs that will read stories and other work out loud
 - <https://www.dcdsb.ca/en/parents/resources/Keep-Learning/Student-Services/Support-with-Reading-and-Writing.pdf>

Strategies to Help with Writing

- Graphic organizers can help your child organize their thoughts and help them organize their sentences, paragraphs, supporting ideas, etc.
 - <https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/learning-at-home/encouraging-reading-writing/download-graphic-organizers-to-help-grade-schoolers-with-writing>
- Consider scribing (writing exactly what is said) for your child
- Building keyboarding skills will likely be helpful
- Encourage your child to use voice-to-text programs so they can speak into a microphone and their words will be typed
 - <https://www.dcdsb.ca/en/parents/resources/Keep-Learning/Student-Services/Support-with-Reading-and-Writing.pdf>
- Encourage your child to check over their work for Spelling, Capitalization, Omitted letters or words, and Punctuation for **both** handwritten and typed text

What does 'Learning Disability' mean?

- Your child or teen has average or above average intelligence. This means that their thinking and reasoning skills are generally at least as high as would be expected for their age.
- Your child's brain processes information differently. This means that they may have difficulty with how they get, use, store, and/or send out information.
- As a result, your child's academic achievement is lower than expected in at least one area (reading, writing, and/or math).

What does this mean for your child?

- It's not that they are lazy
- They might become frustrated more easily because they understand information but have a hard time showing their understanding

Things that may be difficult for your child:

- Staying motivated
- Maintaining positive self-esteem
- Completing work on time
- Paying attention during lessons
- Taking in information visually (what they see)
- Taking in information verbally (what they hear)
- Remembering information or directions
- Organizing their thoughts
- Organizing their things
- Expressing their ideas
- Interacting socially

Strategies to Help with Math

- Review basic math facts. Repeated exposure to basic math facts (e.g., times tables, borrowing) will help them become more automatic
 - Everyday items that can be used as tools include: coins, building blocks, and measuring cups
- Provide your child with opportunities to practice math skills in their everyday life and make ideas meaningful
 - Use games to make this more fun (e.g., dice, dominoes, Battleship)
 - Additional ideas for activities can be found at the following website:
<https://www.understood.org/en/friends-feelings/child-social-situations/sports/7-afterschool-activities-that-sneak-math-into-your-childs-day>
- The following can help your child organize the steps they need to take to solve a math problem:
<https://www.understood.org/en/school-learning/learning-at-home/homework-study-skills/download-graphic-organizers-to-help-kids-with-math>
- The following website has suggested computer resources to help build math skills:
<https://www.dcdsb.ca/en/parents/resources/Keep-Learning/Student-Services/Support-with-Math-and-Visual-and-Spatial-Skills.pdf>

Additional Resources

- www.ldao.ca
- www.ldatsschool.ca
- www.ldonline.org
- www.understood.org

This resource is not intended for diagnostic purposes. It is to be used as a reference for your own understanding and to provide information about the different kinds of difficulties you may encounter in your classroom.

