

## Behaviors that may indicate a learning disability or attention disorder in girls:

- Becomes quiet and withdrawn
- Is reluctant to make friends
- Stops participating in classroom and other activities
- Is a perfectionist
- Unable to balance academic pursuits with social and recreational activities
- Anxious and displays physical symptoms related to school (stomach aches/headaches)
- Reluctant to go to school
- Avoids doing homework



# It looks different in girls.

Recognizing signs of learning disabilities and attention deficit disorders in girls

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SERVICES  
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## Are you missing the signs?

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Enrollment of boys in special education counts for 33% more than that of the enrollment of girls, while there is only a 4% disparity in actual prevalence of learning disabilities between genders. Why?

Typically, boys with unaddressed learning disabilities and attention disorders act out, can't sit still, talk a great deal and at inappropriate times, and have difficulty staying on topic.

Behavior in girls with learning disabilities is often the opposite of boys:

- Girls become withdrawn, make few friends, and stop participating in classroom and other activities.
- Girls with attention deficit disorders are more likely to be inattentive and forgetful.
- Girls with hyperactivity present differently than boys — tending to be hyper-talkative and hyper-emotional, rather than hyper-physical.

Because they do not exhibit disruptive behaviors, girls with learning disabilities and attention disorders typically do not get referred to appropriate educational support services until much later than boys.

## The importance of early detection and intervention...

Early detection of learning disabilities and subsequent intervention are critical to future academic success. Reading failure rates as high as 40% can be reduced to 6% or less with early intervention.

## ... and the risks of missing the signs

Unaddressed learning disabilities and attention disorders in girls can lead to the following:

- Academic failure, underachievement and increased dropout rates
- Low self-esteem, anxiety, depression
- Impulsive sexual behavior that leads to teen pregnancy and STD's
- Drug and alcohol abuse/addiction
- Involvement in the court system
- Difficulties with personal relationships
- Inability to maintain employment
- Inaccurate diagnosis and subsequent treatment as depression

## How LDA Can Help

LDA offers a wide range of services to support individuals with learning disabilities, ADHD and other neurological impairments:

- Educational Consulting
- Tutoring
- Transition Services
- College Coaching
- Adult Education
- Employment Support
- Life Coaching
- Conferences, workshops, and presentations
- Information about other disability-related programs and services in the Greater Rochester area

### Project Connect

LDA recognizes that the complex systems supporting individuals with learning disabilities, ADHD and other neurological impairments are not easily navigated and can be overwhelming. That's why LDA offers Project Connect. Project Connect Information Specialists will work with you to assess your needs and will link you to services and supports in your community.

**Call (585) 263-3323 and ask for Project Connect or e-mail us at [projectconnect@LDARochester.org](mailto:projectconnect@LDARochester.org)**