

Please consider the following when writing or speaking about people with a learning disability

- Do not focus on the disability.
- Do not portray successful people with disabilities as heroes.
- Emphasize abilities, not limitations. Do not use emotional descriptors such as unfortunate.
- Do not use condescending understatements. They reinforce the idea that disabilities cannot be dealt with up front.
- Show people with disabilities as active participants.

Disability Resource Center

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This brochure was made by a postsecondary student with a learning disability as part of the CS³LD project.



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UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Disability Resource Center

Learning Disabilities

A guide to creating a culture of respect and inclusiveness through building an environment of understanding and communication.



Gators®

Working together as a team to create a culture of inclusiveness in our Gator Nation.

Students with learning disabilities aren't lazy or less intelligent. In fact, they are as bright as every student at the University of Florida – just with brains that are “wired differently” which affects how they receive and process information. Learning disabilities can be extremely frustrating. Can you imagine most every day worrying about be embarrassed in class or struggling to express yourself? Most commonly, situations such as this can be twice as challenging for exceptionally bright students with learning disabilities.

This information is being provided to you to open doors which will help students, organizations and employees understand differences among the UF student population, provide effective communication and help in creating a culture where differences are embraced and understood.

Affirmative Phrase

He/She has a learning disability..

He/She needs or uses...

He/She receives accommodations.

Students without disabilities...

Negative Phrase

He/She is disabled or slow.

He/She has a problem with...

He/She is slow.

Normal students...

People who need note takers are stupid.

He/She has a problem with...

Question/Answer

How is a student diagnosed with a learning disability?

Diagnosing a learning disability is a process. It involves extensive testing, history taking, and observations by trained specialists.

What are the most common learning disabilities?

The most common challenges are with reading, writing, math, reasoning, listening and speaking.

Why do some students with learning disabilities have accommodations?

Students providing appropriate proof of a disabling condition may receive accommodations as required by Federal Law. Accommodations such as note takers; extended test times and test administration at the DRC create an environment more conducive to success.

Is there a cure?

A new discovery called neuroplasticity (the brain's natural, lifelong ability to change) provides hope to all students which to additional new treatments instead of simply offering coping strategies for weaknesses.