

Special Needs—What They Are and What They Are Not

Special Need	What it is	What it isn't	What help to give	What to expect
Learning Disabilities	A different way of learning Usually a cluster of symptoms.	Slow learner Intellectually Challenged Rebellion Laziness	Thorough evaluation Targeted therapy Patience and encouragement Help to develop strengths	Often gifted in specific area. Normally functioning adult
AD/HD	Inability to focus attention It may or may not include inability to limit activity. It may include LD symptoms	Emotional problem Discipline failure of parents Spiritual problem Rebellion	Thorough testing Possible medication Structured lifestyle Consistency Patience and encouragement Help to develop strengths	May need medication throughout life. Often very capable in athletic and technical fields. Normally functioning adult
Asperger's Autism	A mild form of Autism Social ineptitude May be obsessive/compulsive It may include LD symptoms	Intellectually Challenged Rebellion Discipline failure of parents	Thorough evaluation Possible medication Targeted therapy Structured lifestyle Consistency Patience and encouragement	Usually continue to be socially inept. Do better in jobs that require little social interaction. Can live independently
Autism	Inability to relate socially. May not acquire spoken language. May or may not include intellectually challenged.	Discipline failure of parents Failure of parents to love A curse	Thorough evaluation Targeted therapy Help to find and develop strengths.	May be able to earn support through areas of strength. Probably will need to live with supervision throughout life.
Down's Syndrome	A chromosomal abnormality Includes a wide range of ability levels.	A curse The parents' fault	Thorough evaluation Targeted therapy Skill training.	Probably will need to live with supervision throughout life.
Slow learner/ Intellectually Challenged	Includes a wide range of abilities from poor student to inability to learn.	A curse The parents' fault	Thorough evaluation. Targeted therapy Skill training.	Probably will need to live with supervision throughout life.