

## FACT SHEET: COMMON FEATURES OF A LEARNING STRENGTH OR DIFFICULTY

**Motor Symbol Sequencing** – Automation of motor plans used in symbol formation for writing, reading, and speech. If you have a weakness in this area it will often result in a difficulty with note taking, completing timed written and reading tasks, written expression, finding and keeping place in text while reading; messy handwriting; miscopying; misreading; irregular spelling; speech rambling and written errors in mathematics.

**Symbol Recognition** – Recognition and recall of symbols and symbol patterns is important for word recognition, spelling, remembering symbol patterns such as mathematical or chemical equations and slow reading speed.

**Broca's Speech Pronunciation** – Pronunciation and integration of syllables into stabilized and consistent word pronunciation is essential for pronouncing words and thinking and talking at the same time. Individuals with a weakness in this area will often avoid using words where they are uncertain of pronunciation or they will use flat and monotone speech with lack of rhythm and intonation which limits their ability to learn and use phonics.

**Lexical Memory** – Remembering several words in a series creates an ability to follow auditory information using good associative memory.

**Quantification Sense** – Sense of number and quantification is an ability to retain numbers in one's head, do mental math, learn math facts; use good time management and budgeting.

**Symbolic Thinking** – Thinking and problem solving in language-based tasks allows an individual to be self-directed and self-organized in learning so that they keep attention focused on the task until completion, they see the main point, can problem solve and have mental initiative.

**Non-Verbal Thinking** – Thinking, planning and problem solving in non-verbal situations requires the interpretation of non-verbal information such as body language, facial expression and voice tone and the ability to register and interpret one's own emotions. Individuals with weak social skills will

often have trouble with problem solving and planning in non-verbal situations.

**Symbol Relations** – Connecting concepts and ideas; understanding logical and conceptual relationships. A Weakness in this area will present as a difficulty with comprehension, reading a clock, logical reasoning, understanding mathematical, scientific or literary concepts, inflexibility or stubbornness.

**Predicative Speech** – Encoding sequential information found in language, mathematical and serial processes is essential to be able to communicate orally, put information into one's own words, use internal speech, comprehend sequences, learn steps in mathematical procedures.

**Auditory Speech Discrimination** – Differentiation in hearing similar speech sounds, for example 'hear'-'fear' is required in order to listen to speech and accurately hear words and understand someone with an accent.

**Object Recognition** – Recognition and recall of an object's details (person, place or thing) is required to find objects, remember visual cues such as landmarks, remember faces and recall the visual details of pictures.

**Kinesthetic Perception** – Awareness of one's body in space and recognition of objects by touch leads to the ability to move the body fluidly because you are aware of where one's body is in space relative to objects. It also ensures appropriate pressure is used when handwriting.

**Primary Motor** – Speed, strength and control of muscle movements on the left side of the body Good muscle tone and fluid body movement.

**Kinesthetic Speech** – Awareness of the position of the lips and tongue for speech articulation. A Lack of will lead to poor articulation of speech and speech slurring may occur.