

## School Problems and Learning Disabilities | Georgia Shaffer, M.A.

**Introduction:** Have you ever known someone with a learning disability? If so, then you know the sense of frustration, guilt, anxiety and shame both the parent and the child experience. If you haven't then this lesson will give you some sound advice and counsel for recognizing and helping these families through this lifetime of struggle.

**Learning Disability:** anything that interferes with our ability to process, to learn and take in information

### I. Signs of trouble

- A. Non-compliant disorder
- B. Aggression and anger issues: easily frustrated; work just to function
- C. Generalized Anxiety: they worry a lot
- D. Compulsiveness

### II. Early signs of a problem

- A. Show's up early – Around 2 – 2 ½
- B. Formal diagnosis shows up around school age
- C. Feeling of helplessness by parents
- D. Pervasive development disorder (PDD)

### III. Strategies for helping (Educators, counselors, youth pastor/workers, etc..)

- A. Consistency
- B. Specialized focused attention
- C. Make commitment
- D. Establish a relationship

### IV. Autism issues

- A. Recognize you're not alone
- B. Seek out encouragement
  - 1. Church
  - 2. Christian home education association
- C. Recognize all children are a gift from God

### V. Parental issues when dealing with learning disabilities

- A. Feelings of guilt
- B. Awareness of a problem
- C. Support is important

### VI. How can you support

- A. Power of one person
- B. Decide to make a difference
- C. Love the child's gift and help them to expand

### VII. Adolescent issues

- A. Impulsivity
- B. Explosive anger
- C. Compound stress

**Study Questions:**

1. Explain the signs of trouble of a child that may have a learning disability.
2. Discuss how you can notice early signs of developmental issues.
3. Discuss how youth leaders, teachers, and counselors can help families and children with learning disabilities.
4. Discuss autism issues and how you or your church can support these families.
5. Discuss adolescent issues in children with learning disabilities.