

*Every Child born into the world
is a new thought of God,
an ever fresh & radiant possibility*



- *Dedicated to children with different ability*
- *Working through multi disciplinary holistic approach*



M.B. BARVALIA FOUNDATION'S SPANDAN HOLISTIC INSTITUTE

Centre

Naidu Colony, Opp. Building 161, Near Jain Temple, Pant Nagar, Ghatkopar(E), Mumbai – 400 075

Special School

Municipal School No. 3, Near Police Station, Pant Nagar, Ghatkopar (E), Mumbai - 400 075.

Proposed Holistic Mother – Child Hospital:

Near Deonar Fire Brigade, Municipal Colony, Deonar, Mumbai – 400 043.

Satellite Clinics

Ramabai Nagar

Near Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar's Statue, above Hotel Dhanraj, Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar, off E. E. highway, Ghatkopar (E), Mumbai 400075.

Mankhurd

R. No. 250 Building No. 7, P. M. G. Colony, Opp. Sai Vidyalaya, Mankhurd, Mumbai – 400 043.

Deonar

Bal Krida Kendra, B.M.C Colony, Deonar.

Ahmedabad Branch

Himavan, Mehndi Jung Hall, Paladi, Char Rasta, Towards V.S. Hospital, Ahmedabad - 380 006.

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Learning Disability

M.B. BARVALIA FOUNDATION'S
SPANDAN HOLISTIC INSTITUTE

M.B. Barvalia Foundation is registered public charitable trust established in February 1997 which has promoted institutes dedicated to special children operating through Holistic Multidisciplinary approach.

- HOLISTIC CHILD CARE CENTRE
- SPANDAN HOLISTIC INSTITUTE OF APPLIED HOMOEOPATHY
- COMPREHENSIVE HOMOEOPATHY MOBILE CLINIC
- MEDICAL CENTRE
- INDIAN JOURNAL OF HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICINE
- HIV/AIDS CENTRE

Institute is based on strong philosophical foundation of HOLISTIC – PSYCHO EDUCATIONAL APPROACH: SYMPHONY. This is an innovative method based on integration of holistic concept propounded by Dr. Samuel Hahnemann, founder of Homoeopathy & Jean Piaget's concept of child development. In order to inculcate awareness about various disabilities we are presenting educational material useful for people at large.

Learning Disability

1. What is learning disability?

Children who are of average or above average intelligence (not below average or retarded) and have specific difficulties in learning to Read, Write and/or Mathematics are said to be having Learning Disability. These children face difficulty even after adequate teaching and exposure.

The main things we need to be sure about before diagnosing a child with learning disability are:

- The child has average or above average intelligence (IQ > 90),
- The child has had adequate exposure and teaching,
- There are no visual or hearing impairment, or motor handicaps,
- There is no mental retardation,
- No emotional disturbances are preventing the child from studying adequately,
- No environmental, cultural or economic disadvantages are negatively affecting the child.

Only when these factors are ruled out then can we consider the diagnosis of learning disorder in a child.

2. What are the different types of Learning Disabilities?

Essentially Learning disability can be categorized as disability in:

- Reading skills – Dyslexia
- Writing skills – Dysgraphia
- Mathematics – Dyscalculia
- General – combination of above three.

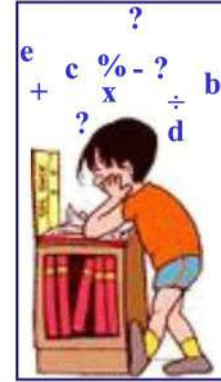


3. What are the indicators of Learning Disability?

Learning Disabilities present with a wide spectrum of indicators. These are:

Primary Indicators:

- Scholastic Backwardness – Poor performance in school exams which is usually deteriorating progressively as compared to previous exams.
- Difficulty in reading – inability to differentiate and identify alphabets and words due to poor recognition; reversing the sequence of letters e.g. reading GOD for DOG.



- Difficulty in writing – poor illegible handwriting, plenty of spelling mistakes, poor sentence construction, plenty of grammatical mistakes, etc.
- Difficulty in Mathematics – difficulty in identifying various signs e.g. confusion in differentiating + and -, difficulty in understanding arithmetic concepts of addition, subtraction, etc.
- Difficulty in tasks that require fine coordination – differentiating Right from Left direction, assessing speed and space around one self.

Secondary / Associated Features: along with the features mentioned above children exhibit significant emotional and behavioural disturbances.

- Hyperactivity is very common along with attention deficit.
- Aggressive behaviour or social withdrawal commonly stems from poor self esteem and depression.
- Anxiety about performance and fearfulness may also be seen.

4. What is the basic difficulty with children with Learning Disability?

Learning disability manifests as disturbance in one or more of the basic psychological processes involved in the process of learning.

These processes are:

- Attention
- Perception
- Memory
- Language



Usually there is a disturbance in more than one of these factors. A fault in the coordination between these processes lies at the base of learning disability. A disturbance in the connections between the various areas of the higher functions in the brain results in this in-coordination.

5. What causes Learning Disability?

There is no single factor that causes Learning disability. It has been known for many years that Dyslexia tends to cluster in certain families. Familial transmission for Dyslexia has been well documented. Non-genetic factors like focal cortical dysgenesis and disarrays in the layered pattern of the brain's surface are also known to cause Dyslexia. The various factors like genetic predispositions, injury at the time of birth and various neurological conditions are associated with the development of Learning Disability, however the presence of such conditions does not always lead to genesis of Learning Disability and there are many individuals with LD who have no such history. Learning Disabilities are however, frequently found in association with a variety of general medical conditions (e.g. lead poisoning, fetal alcohol syndrome or fragile X syndrome)

6. What is not Learning Disability?

Learning disability is not –

- a. A sign of poor intelligence – a number of successful people in the history had difficulty in learning these included scientists, artists, etc.
- b. Laziness or lack of caring – many children are extremely sensitive to the difficulties faced by others as they themselves face number of difficulties.



- c. A vision problem – they can see correctly but cannot discriminate and make sense (perceive) of the various symbols.
- d. A disease – it is a state of being. One does not suffer from dyslexia; one is dyslexic (as one is tall or short, thin or fat).



- e. Something you grow out of – it is not a developmental delay that a child can catch up as age progresses. Usually if adequate measures are not taken problems only increase.

7. What are the available treatment modalities for Learning disability?

Conventionally there is no medication available for Learning disability. Special education (Remediation) given by a special educator is required as an adjuvant to normal / regular school. The condition is generally believed to be incurable (as it is not a disease – just a condition). Homoeopathic medicines are now known to improve the perception of the dyslexic child there by speeding up the learning process, improving the coordination of the various inputs. By doing this the comprehension of the child improves and many things that made no sense to the child start becoming comprehensible. The memory also improves and the child is able to retain all that he now comprehends.



Hyperactivity associated with learning disability is the most common obstacle that the special educators experience as it is obviously difficult to teach a restless child that does not sit in one place. Homoeopathic Medicines have a general calming effect on such restless children and make them more amenable to instructions of the special educator. The in-coordination in the fine movements are also seen to reduce and the child is able to perform finer tasks. These children have an average or above average intelligence but are not able to realize their full potential due to limitations caused by this disability. Homoeopathic Medicines along with remediation allow the child to overcome the disability and lead an efficient and productive life.

The experience of this disability is devastating to the self esteem and self confidence of the child and it eventually leads to depression which gets expressed in form of agitation or social withdrawal.

8. How can we help a child with Learning Disability in classroom?

- Explain to the pupil what his problems are.
- Attempt to restore the pupil's confidence in himself.
- Be aware of the possibility that the student may be using avoidance techniques. Be constructively critical.

9. Can Learning Disability be cured?

Learning disability should not be viewed as a disease but a condition. All therapeutic efforts are directed towards ameliorating the difficulties. It may be noted that several famous people with this invisible handicap include Albert Einstein, Thomas Edison, Leonardo de Vinci, Abraham Lincoln, Tom Cruise and Steven Spielberg. They have moved on to lead brilliant careers.

10. What improvement can I expect in my child with homoeopathic treatment?

Homeopathic medicines help in correcting the faulty motor patterns and help in improving the coordination thus reducing difficulties of perception.

- This helps in reduction of difficulty in reading & writing.
- Spelling mistakes reduce.
- Correction in the altered state of sensitivity. Children appear calmer. It helps in reducing emotional disturbances.
- Improvement in behavioural problems like hyperactivity, fidgetiness, impulsiveness etc.
- Attention span improves. A child who was earlier very inattentive starts to focus on the task given.
- Homoeopathic medicines act as immuno-modulators. They help to build up the general resistance power of the patients. This significantly improves their tendency to develop recurrent infections.
- At physical level – child starts showing improved sleep pattern, improves digestion.
- They do not have any adverse or depressing neuro-physiological side effects.

11. Is Homoeopathy compatible with other therapies?

Homeopathic medicines are not substitute for all other essential therapies or teaching techniques like Remedial education, occupational therapy, counseling, speech therapy etc. Homoeopathy works in perfect synergy with above techniques and therefore we promote holistic integrated care. In fact, positive influence of correct homoeopathic remedy makes the child more receptive to other therapeutic inputs like Remediation, occupational therapy etc. This entire process speeds up the process of management.

12. What is remedial teaching? How does it benefit children with Learning Disability?

Remedial education is a specialized teaching concept and method for the benefit of children with learning disabilities. Remedial programmes are designed to meet the individual learning styles and educational needs of these children.

TESTIMONIAL :

My child Swapnil faced lot of difficulty in his education. He repeatedly failed in exams. We were really at a loss to understand the reason for this as he was otherwise a very intelligent boy. The teacher also wondered what was really wrong with him.

He used to look emotionally disturbed & had a frown on his face almost constantly. He was also very restless & impulsive child. Once he chopped off one of his eye brow without any reason, he would hide in the water tank without realizing the potential danger in these activities. We even took him to a psychologist & special educator. They started with counseling and remediation but it didn't help him much. In spite of our best efforts, when Swapnil failed yet again, the school removed him. We couldn't find any other school near our place, as none of the mainstream school admitted him and wouldn't even fit in the special schools for mentally retarded.

The Psychologist referred us to Spandan. He was thoroughly educated at the institute & was diagnosed as having 'Dyslexia'. In addition to this Swapnil was also emotionally disturbed due to our family conflicts.

We admitted him in the institute's special school for slow learners and simultaneously started on homoeopathic treatment. His restlessness & impulsiveness has almost totally gone. He also showed excellent improvement in his academic. Emotionally he settled to a great extent & the persistent frown on his face gave way to a beautiful smile. Today Swapnil has cleared his SSC & he is doing well.

