

Intellectual Disability (ID) Fact Sheet



Signs of ID

- *Sit up, crawl or walk later than most children.*
- *Learn to talk later or have trouble speaking*
- *Find it hard to remember things*
- *Have trouble understanding social rules*
- *Have trouble seeing consequences of their actions*
- *Not understand how to pay for things*
- *Have trouble problem solving*
- *Have trouble with logical thinking*

Adapted from NICHY (2011)

What are Intellectual Disabilities?

Intellectual disability is a term used when a person has certain limitations in mental functioning and in skills such as communication, self-care, and social skills. These limitations cause a child to learn and develop more slowly than a typical child. Children with intellectual disabilities may take longer to learn to speak, walk, and take care of their personal needs such as dressing or eating. They can learn, but it will take them longer.

Definition of Intellectual Disability under IDEA

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), defines Intellectual Disability as...

Significantly sub average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, which adversely affects a child's educational performance.

[34 Code of Federal Regulations §300.8(c)(6)].

ID and School

A child with an intellectual disability can do well in school but is likely to need the individualized help that is available as special education and related services. The level of help and support that's needed will depend upon the degree of intellectual disability involved.

It's important that students with ID be involved in, and make progress in, the general education curriculum. IDEA does not permit a student to be removed from general education classrooms solely because he or she needs modifications.

Tips for success in school include:

- Be as concrete as possible
- Demonstrate what you mean rather than just giving verbal instructions
- Break longer, new tasks into small steps
- Give the student immediate feedback
- Involve the student in group activities or clubs
- Keep the student's age, attention span, and abilities in mind
- Encourage independence where possible
- Assume your child can learn!