



# The Family Hope Center

An International Center for the Development of Children

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## What are Learning Disabilities?

These types of diagnoses - it is estimated that there are over 200 such labels - are made in relation to an array of symptoms that professionals find when evaluating a child. These symptoms typically appear in children who are experiencing overall delay in reading, writing, language, motor and emotional skills, to a mild to profound degree. The labels are an attempt to qualify or quantify a child's condition. Many children receive more than one.

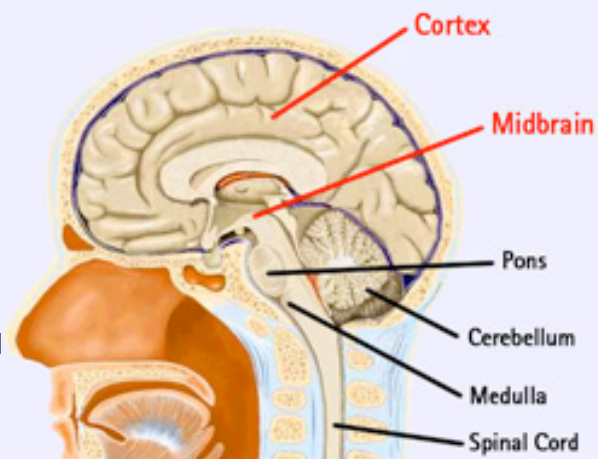
All of these labels describe essentially the same condition – neurological disorganization - originating from the same source: the brain. At The Family Hope Center, it is our task to identify the specific pathways in the brain that have been compromised. This gets us to the root of the child's condition, and is the necessary first step to developing a program that will truly heal the child.

## How Can We Help?

Children who present such symptoms are injured primarily throughout the cortex, especially in the temporal and frontal lobes. These pervasive injuries prevent the child from receiving and processing information properly, which leads to delayed, inaccurate and inappropriate decisions. It also makes skills that develop naturally in "normal" children – especially language decoding skills (required for speech, reading and writing) and basic social skills – difficult or, without proper treatment, impossible to acquire fully.

### Brain impairments associated with Learning Disabilities

Children who present symptoms of **learning disabilities** are usually impaired primarily in the **cortex**. This kind of injury prevents the child from receiving and processing information properly, which leads to delayed, inaccurate and inappropriate decisions. Because children with these symptoms often have mild to severe problems in the **midbrain** area as well, they may also have issues with their coordination and mobility.



Children with these symptoms often have mild to severe problems in the midbrain area, as well. This area of the brain is responsible for processing and integrating the vast amount of sensory information being sent to the brain at any given time, and then for directing this information to the cortex. If this area is not functioning well, even an uninjured cortex will have difficulty performing its sophisticated tasks. Injuries in the midbrain will frequently result in problems with convergence, depth perception, coordination and mobility, as well.

### **What Do We Do for these Children?**

In general – and in contrast to what often happens in conventional treatment - therapy for these children should target the midbrain *first*, not the cortex. This will increase the basic organization of the lower levels of the brain, which in turn will help the higher, cortical levels (which receive information from the lower levels) to function more effectively.

Simultaneously, and without medication, injections or surgery, we develop a program to improve the sensory pathways, which regulate sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing, in order to bring about the normal development of these functions. The information carried by these pathways must be properly processed in the midbrain before it is sent to the cortex. Once the sensory pathways have been developed, but not before, we proceed to the development of the other functions, such as mobility, speech, manual dexterity and social skills, that depend on the proper functioning of these pathways.

Finally, and critically, we address the overall metabolic, neurological and physical health of the child in several important ways, including:

- We dramatically increase oxygen delivery to the whole brain. This contributes greatly to the overall health and development of the brain, which both facilitates and accelerates the healing process.
- We work to ensure that the cranial sacral mechanism is functioning up to its maximum potential. Without addressing this important aspect in healing the child, the progress will be much, much slower.
- Since progress toward wellness depends *heavily* on an excellent, cleansing diet, we develop individually designed diets to increase neurotransmitter function in the brain, restore gastrointestinal health, and eliminate over-sensitivities to allergens and toxins.

After many years of experience, we know that children who follow treatment plans like these can and will make steady progress in their understanding, speech, reading, physical coordination and social comporment issues.