RED FLAGS ON LEARNING DISABILITY

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In our country Learning Disability (LD) is a common problem of every teacher every year. How to be able to learn these children in a classroom setting which have difficulties in learning? Based from the research, it is estimated that fifteen percent of children in Asia including the Philippines are affected with LD.

Learning Disability (LD) is a disorder in one or more basic psychological process involving communication, whether oral or written which result to ability defect on listening, thinking, speaking, reading, writing and spelling. Common to learning disabled children have reading problem known as Dyslexia. Interchanging the letters, thus, reading incorrectly like “was to saw”. Children may also be learning disabled if they have difficulties in developing some of the skills other children of the same age are capable of, or if they have difficulties understanding spoken words and direction, expressing themselves in words or doing mathematical calculations. The impact of the disability ranges from mild to severe. The disorder is intrinsic to the individual and are presumed to be due to the central nervous system. Research long believed that LD stem from abnormalities in the brain. As teacher, we should be keen in identifying LD children. Here are some ways to recognize if the child has learning disability problem.

Watch out for warnings: Ask a six-year old to name words that rhyme with “cat”. A child who recognizes sound differences will quickly respond “hat, mat, rat”. One who cannot
break a word down into sounds may answer “kitty or meow”. This is according to expert who can generally predict who is likely to be a poor reader at age six. But do not conclude the first time a child reads “god for dog” or mixes up “b” and “d”. We have so-called reversal- this are common among beginning readers and usually correct themselves in the first two years of school.

Confer with the child’s parent: parents and teachers are usually the first ones to recognize if the child has learning disability. Teacher should discuss with the parents the child strength and weaknesses so, they can provide ways to help the child with his disability. If necessary, professional evaluation for the child is available in the community, there are specialist teachers or therapist who can address the problem. The most important thing to consider is the acceptance of the parent to the child’s situation.

References:
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_education