

Appearance (EYES)

- ❖ Crossed eyes
- ❖ Inflamed or watery eyes
- ❖ White pupils
- ❖ Drooping eyelids
- ❖ Eyes that move excessively

Complaints

- Itching, burning or scratch feeling in the eyes
- Inability to see well
- Dizziness, headaches or nausea, following close work
- Blurred or double vision
- Inability to see in bright light

Eye conditions:

- ✓ **Refraction Errors** – Myopia; hyperopia; astigmatism.
- ✓ **Cataracts** – the clouding of the eye.
- ✓ **Strabismus** – the eye muscles do not function correctly & eye is pulled to side.
- ✓ **Albinism** – lack of pigment in the eye leads to severe photophobia.
- ✓ **Glaucoma** – painless pressure builds up in eye & damages optic nerve – loss of vision.

Behaviours associated with learning difficulties

- Insecurity, withdrawal, daydreaming, tearfulness, unfriendliness, stubbornness, hyperactivity, complaints about stomachache, nausea, refusal to go to school
- Excessive sweating of the hands, urinesis & encopresis (uncontrolled bladder) may occur
- Excessive dependence on and seeking of approval
- Incomplete and untidy work
- Attention problems
- Perseveration – difficulty in switching attention from one activity to another

Causes of learning difficulties

Ecological factors

- The home environment – communication, lack of basic needs, neglect
- The school – poor teaching, inadequate facilities & equipment, language
- Social problems – poor interaction, relationships, self confidence
- Cultural environment – poverty, family disintegration, few opportunities

Emotional problems

- Continuous failure at school.
- Conflict at home.
- Poverty.
- A negative attitude towards school in the home, low self-esteem, depression, anxiety and withdrawal.

Physical problems

- Visual and hearing problems.
- Ill health.
- Neurological dysfunction – auditory perceptual skills, visual perceptual.
- Biochemical imbalance – in the brain.
- Intellectual disability – low performance levels.
- Gender differences – boys physicals & cognitive developments takes longer than girls.
- Undernutrition – Poverty.

Manifestations of perceptual-motor problems at preschool level

Motor manifestations

Gross motor problems

- Causes **clumsiness, poor balance & uneven rhythm** in the use of the larger muscles of the body
- Problems can be **observed** when child crawls, walks, runs, jumps, kicks, etc.
- Problems can be observed during outside play, movement games & music

Fine motor problems

- Has a **lack of fine motor coordination**
- Experiences problems in **using smaller muscles** during creative activities(e.g. cutting, drawing & collage)
- Will **battle do up buttons**, thread beads, build with small blocks & page books
- Problems can be observed when **handling small educational apparatus** & during inside play

Visual-motor coordination problems

- Experience problems with **cooperation between eye-hand/eye-foot**.
- Problems manifest in **poor finger & hand movements**
- Struggle with **finer hand skills** & also has **poorly coordinated movements** of the legs / feet when kicking a ball.

Types of physical disability

Neurologically related physical disabilities (**brain & spinal cord**)

Spina bifida

- Baby is born with an **opening in the spinal column**
- **At the opening** - membrane may bulge to form a sac containing cerebrospinal fluid & a part of the spinal cord

Physical disabilities of the skeleton & muscles

- Amputation - loss of limb through accident or surgery
- Deformed limbs – born without limbs or have deformed limbs
- Burn lesions – person becomes physically disabled due to severe burns