

# SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (SLDs)

## A DEFINITION



SPELD NSW believes that difficulty learning can be generated by external circumstances (family, communities, opportunities, experiences) and/or internal circumstances (inherent, sensory, physical, neurological).

The circumstances which SPELD NSW defines as being characteristic of Specific Learning Difficulties, or learning disability:

- are considered to be intrinsic to the individual
- can cause a person to learn differently
- are not linked to intellectual impairment (except incidentally)
- may coincidentally exist with problems in self-regulatory behaviours, attention, social perception and social interaction
- are life-long
- result in difficulty accessing the curriculum unless identified early and educational adjustments appropriate to individual need are provided, to prevent failure.

Specific Learning Difficulties affects the learning of about 7% of all people. Dyslexia is the most common Specific Learning Difficulty.

(Last updated: 2009)