

People with Cognitive or Learning Disabilities

Cognitive or Learning Disabilities ARE LIFE-LONG DISORDERS that interfere with a person's ability to receive, express or process information.

Although they have certain limitations, most people with cognitive or learning disabilities have average or above-average intelligence.

You may not realize that the person has a cognitive or learning disability because they function so well. Or you may be confused about why such a high-functioning person has problems in one aspect of their work.

People with dyslexia or other reading disabilities have trouble reading written information.

Give them verbal explanations and allow extra time for reading.

Do not be surprised if you tell someone very simple instructions and they request that you write them down.

Because spoken information gets "scrambled" as they listen.

A person who has a cognitive or learning disability such as auditory processing disorder may need information demonstrated or in writing.

Ask the person how you can best relay information.

Be direct in your communication.

A person with a cognitive or learning disability may have trouble grasping subtleties.

It may be easier for the person to function in a quiet environment without distractions, such as a radio playing, people moving around or loudly patterned curtains.