Learning disability may lead to secondary problems

By definition, the term child with specific learning disability refers to a youngster whose achievement in one or more of the basic learning areas of reading, writing, or arithmetic (the d Re) is substantially below that which is expected, given the childic introduction of the childic and the control of the control of the childic and the control of the control of

disabilities.

A learning disability is not due to impaired intelligence, speech or hearing problems. It is not caused by emotional problems or a lack of motivaproblems or a lack of motiva-tion, although some children may have these conditions in addition to a learning disabili-

Some causes of learning dis-Some causes of tearning ous-abilities may be genetic, neuro-logical, the result of birthing problems or peri-natal (intrauterine) exposure to alcohol, drugs, nicotine, or some medicines. Some may be caused to exposure to lead



McCulloch

poisoning in infancy and childhood. Boys seem to out num-ber girls by 3-to-1 in the ratio of learning disabilities.

BOYS VS. GIRLS

Years ago, an interesting experiment was begun. It was hypothesized that baby boy's heads, at birth, are alightly larger than girls' heads. One hundred heads of newborns were measured and there was a significant difference in boys having larger heads. It was thought that this could mean more pressure was exerted on thought that this could mean more pressure was exected on the boy's heads in the birth canal during the delivery process. It was further thought that mild and thy blood vessel bursting could occur in the boys with the larger heads. Next, one hundred new borns (half girls, half boys) had spinal taps done soon after birth to check for bleeding. There was significantly more non-dangerous blood in the

boys' taps than in the girls' taps. This was thought to be correlated with the greater pressure bearing on the skull as it passed through the birth canal.

canal.
Unfortunately, the study stopped there. More could have been learned.
If the bables in Phase I had been tested for learning disabilities around strd grade and the 3 to I ratlo favoring the boys was seen, interesting conclusions could've been made.

Parents and children with learning disabilities need to understand that the children understand that the children are not retarded, lazy, crazy or welrd. Famous, very successful couple have had learning disabilities including Bruce Jenner, the former Olympic Gold Metal winner. It has also been reported that Einstein was a poor student of-math, as a young schoolboy and John F. Kennedy was a poor student of history as a high school student,

history as a high school stu-dent.
It is important not to con-fuse Attention Deficit
Hyperactive Disorder (ADHD)
with learning disabilities. The two can be present in the same child but they are different dis-orders, and one does not cause the other.

Also, the term dyslexia is often misunderstood. Simply, it refers to the instances of severe learning disabilities mainly in reading and writing where letters and numbers are perceived and/or written back-wards.

wards.
It is interesting to note the dyslexic form of learning disability doesn't exist in China since their language is top-to-bottom (vertical), while our English is left-to-right (horizontal).

SECONDARY PROBLEMS

Special attention needs to be given by teachers, parents and friends of the learning disabled student. It is paramount to prevent the development of secondary problems, which can be more devastating that the learning disabilities them-

the learning disabilities themselves.
These include low self-esteem, poor self-image, conduct problems, delinquency and depression. School dropout rates are high when self-esteem is not preserved, and disproportionate number of the prison population versus the general population value been shown to have specific learning disabilities.
If a learning disability is

suspected, a parent or teacher can request an Individualized Educational Planning Committee (EPC) to convene in their school observations of the Committee (EPC) to convene in their school observation of their convenient of the Committee (EPC) to convenient of their school observation of their convenient of their school observation of their convenient of their conv

In these programs, classes are smaller, teacher aides are more common, and the teach-ers are trained in alternative ways of teaching the student with the learning disabled

with the learning disabled brain.
In addition, it can be very helpful to have an outside the school tutor or 'coach' work with the student.
This could be an older high school student or a professional tutor or someone in the fami-ity with whom the child bonds well.

en. Much can also be done in small groups of featuring dis-abled children in schools, to provide support and solidarity and understanding to each

If secondary emotional, self-esteem and/or conduct or

other problems develop, pro-fessional help can be sought. In the final analysis, the only thing worse for the child with a tearning disability is acquiring a secondary poor attitude about himself/herself and the hearning mothern. Helm learning problem. Help is available.

RESOURCES

The Learning Disability
Association of Michigan,
phone (a17) 485-4100, internet
www.ldaofmichigian.org.
Center for Human
Development at William
Beaumont Hospital in Royal
Oak, provides learning disability assessment and
tution with schools, scholarships are sometimes available.
Phone (249) 691-4741.
Within the School System
itself, ask for a Consultation
with the teacher and the
District's School Psychologist.

Leonard J. McCulloch is a diplomate of Leonard J. McCultoch is a diplomate of the American Psychotherapy Association. He is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist and is Board Certified in Trauma. He is Director of Psychological Services at Broe Rehabilitation Services. Inc. of Farmiogton Hills, He can be reached at (248) 474-2763.

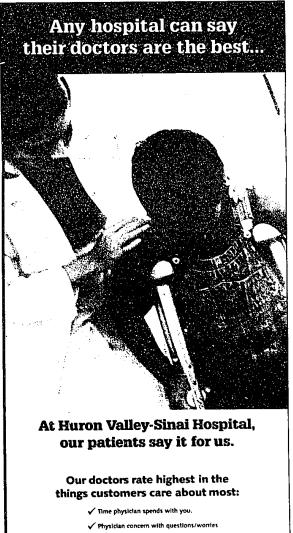
Social services agency honors church

On March 23, 2003, Cass Community Social Services (CCSS) hosted its 9th Annual Dinner at the Westin Hotel in Southfield.
Nearly 200 partygoers telped raise over \$38,000 by purchasing tickets and bidding on dozens of silent auction items. Funds will be used to fluish construction on a new 1,240-square-foot commercial kitchen inside CCSS Secti Building. The Annual Dinner provides staff and friends of CCSS with an opportunity to recognize the past year's accomplishments. Among the highlights, the Church of the Year award, which honors exemplary volunteers in by parishioners of a partner church, went to Earmington Orchard United Methodist Church.
Cass Community Social Services, the nonsectarian outreach of Cass Community United Methodist Church, is dedicated to making a profound difference in the lives of the diverse populations it serves. CCSS is accredited by the Commission on Rehabilitation Facilities



Doug Rick, Farmington Hills, holds the CCSS Church of the Year Award with CCSS Board Chair, Karen Plants, Ferndale.

(CARF), an international accrediting body. The Scott Building, CCSS' newest facility, is located at 11850 Woodrow Wilson Street in Detroit.

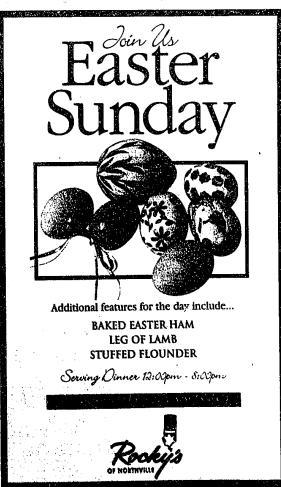


- Physician keeps you informed.
- ✓ Friendliness/courtesy of physician
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