

Teaching EFL to Learners with SpLDs (Specific Learning Difficulties)

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1.) What are the six key elements of teaching language learners with SpLDs?

1. Recognize
2. Understand
3. Learning Strategies
4. Accommodate
5. Differentiate
6. Apply multisensory techniques
(and the use of multiple languages)

2.) What is the most common problem with SpLDs?

Specific learning difficulties are often hidden at the first sight. Usually, you cannot see why students struggle and, therefore, students are treated inappropriately. But we need to take the time to actually help them “overcome the hurdles” in order to maintain their motivation.

3.) In which four or five categories can SpLDs be divided?

1. Dyslexia and reading comprehension problems
2. Dyscalculia
3. Dyspraxia and Dysgraphia
4. Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

4.) What problems derive from the overlapping of different disorders or learning difficulties?

- Identification and the use of appropriate teaching methods may present challenges
- Since SpLDs are placed on a continuum, there is no clear cut-off point
- There is a great variety of subtypes of difficulties – each subtype may need a different treatment
- There is a great variety of learning difficulties, which makes it challenging to find appropriate teaching methods for all learners

5.) What makes people believe that more boys have learning difficulties?

Since girls are good at hiding their difficulties and compared to boys generally behave less disruptively, their learning difficulties will not be as noticeable. However, learning difficulties occur equally often.

6.) Why are dyslexic students likely to have difficulties in listening?

Dyslexic people have difficulty keeping information in their short-term-memory. If they only hear the information, they will have difficulty remembering it. Being able to see a text while hearing it helps, not only dyslexic students, but all students to store the information, and therefore constitutes an inclusive teaching method.

7.) Which learning strategies can be especially helpful for students with SpLDs in terms of regulating feelings and motivation?

- visualizing success
- rewarding success
- seeing mistakes and failures as part of the learning process

8.) What can teachers accommodate?

1. classroom management
2. environment
3. pacing
4. level of support
5. presentation and access to material

9.) What can teachers differentiate?

1. process
2. content
3. product
4. environment

10.) What are the four components of multi-sensory teaching?

1. highly structured (from simple to complex)
2. small, cumulative steps
3. frequent revision, practice
4. direct, explicit teaching