

Parents misunderstand learning disability signs

Subtle symptoms often go undiagnosed

From Changing Times Magazine
 If you notice your child has difficulty learning certain things, you might want to look into the chance of a learning disability.
 At first, you may be the only one who knows something is wrong. Most learning-disabled kids have at least average intelligence (many are intellectually gifted) and don't suffer from such recognized disabilities as cerebral palsy or mental retardation, which can also slow learning. Because symptoms of learning disabilities are sometimes subtle, the actual handicap is often misunderstood and goes undiagnosed.
 Medical and neurological exams will show the brain to be fully functioning, but psychological and educational testing can indicate the circuitry is somehow disrupted. Experts are not sure why. (About 40 percent of cases appear to be hereditary.)
 As a result, children have trouble performing one or more of the skills crucial to learning.

Changing Times magazine says infants and toddlers with learning disabilities may be slower than others to crawl, walk or talk.
 They also may have such persistent symptoms as a lack of interest in play, refusal of food because of its texture or aversion to touching water. Older children may have poor eye-hand coordination that makes such tasks as drawing, writing, dressing and tying shoes difficult for them.
 Visual-perception problems show up in reading or math, with reversal of letters and numbers used out of their logical order. Auditory perceptual problems may cause children to misunderstand what is said; they may forget what they hear and stumble over spoken answers to their questions.
 Whatever the name, it is clear the conditions are common, affecting as many as 2 million school-age children. Ignored or dealt with inappropriately, learning disabilities let affected youngsters drift further

behind.
 If their problems are diagnosed and treated properly, studies show that children with learning disabilities pick up a more normal pace in the classroom.
 They begin to conquer frustration and put accompanying personal problems in perspective.
 If a child displays symptoms of a problem, the school system is obliged to perform an appropriate evaluation at your request. Under the federal Education for All Handicapped Children Act, school districts (or designated agencies) must test children from birth through age 21 for various disabilities affecting learning and provide free special education to those age 6 to 17 who are deemed to need it.
 Most states have free special education for preschool children — some for newborns, others beginning at age 5. Many school districts in states that do not mandate preschool services provide them anyway.

AHA telecast to examine heart attacks

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans will get a chance to learn first-hand about heart attack recognition and treatment via a one-hour telecast during September and October.
 The program, "Surviving a Heart Attack," sponsored by the American Heart Association (AHA), will focus on the importance of early diagnosis and prompt action in treatment of heart attacks, which afflict 1.5 million Americans each year.
 The telecast, produced by Lifetime Medical Television in cooperation with the AHA, is made possible by a grant from Genentech Inc. First showing will be Sept. 14, with repeats scheduled for Sept. 25, Oct. 6 and Oct. 16. Local newspapers should be checked for time of showing.
 Taped segments of the program will offer an inside look at emergency rooms and coronary care units. Viewers will see how doctors respond to emergency calls for heart attack patients, showing how early care may be crucial to survival in light of new treatments.
 The telecast also will inform viewers on how emergency services such as 911 work, and how heart attack victims can get medical help.
 "Surviving a Heart Attack" will educate viewers, stressing precautions to prevent heart attacks, how to recognize early symptoms, and the need to seek immediate medical attention when a heart attack is suspected, according to AHA president Dr. Bernadine Healy.

3 Tibetan monks work to re-create ancient art of sand

NEW YORK (AP) — In a city battered by noise, hundreds of people are spellbound each day by the quiet concentration of three Tibetan monks drawing an ancient geometric picture out of fine, multi-hued grains of sand.
 For the first time ever, the robed Buddhist monks are creating in public view "The Wheel of Time" — a sand mandala whose intricate design of "the abode of the gods" is more than 2,500 years old.
 In a silent room of the American Museum of Natural History, the monks scrape a thin rod against a funnel to release the sand, sometimes only a few grains at a time.
 "I have been... creating (this) mandala for a long time — in Wisconsin, Switzerland and in Japan. This is first time that allow the public view very closely," said the Venerable Lobsang Chogyen in soft, broken English.
 The 30-year-old monk likes having an audience and even enjoys occasional questions from curious viewers who want to know, "What happens when the wind blows?" (A sneeze would do more harm in the air-conditioned room.) And, "Where does the sand come from?"
 The sand is brought in from the Himalayas.
 "People asking us... 'Are we disturbing you by talking around?' and I told them unless you don't push me there is no disturbance," Chogyen said.
 Dr. Malcolm Arth, curator of the

museum's department of education, said, "We've observed that even in the morning during the summer when camp groups come through — these are very young kids with high school counselors, and they're pretty rowdy — there is a kind of hush that falls on people when they walk into that room."
 Arth said the average visitor to a museum spends 10 to 30 seconds in front of an exhibited object. "Here it is obvious people are spending minutes, not seconds — sometimes even hours," he said.
 "Americans are floored by the patience and that concentration and the beauty of the object," he said. Some 40,000 to 50,000 people have already viewed the six-week construction of the mandala.
 Almost seven feet in diameter, "The Wheel of Time" is decorated with flowers, animals and symbolic designs and resembles the labyrinthine passageways of a many-chambered palace.
 Samten and his two assistants, Chogyen and Venerable Lobsang Gyalsen, are from the Namgyal Monastery in the Himalayan foothills of India. They are staying in a Manhattan loft and come to the museum daily to work on the mandala on a table under an ornate pagoda in the museum's Leonhardt Center.
 Like a concert or ballet, a mandala is ephemeral; once completed, it is traditionally swept into a vase and the sand thrown into a river as an offering to marine life.

Archeologists uncover objects of biblical wars

AFIQ, Israeli-Annexed Golan Heights (AP) — With the thud of modern artillery in the background, archeologists are uncovering evidence that the Golan Heights was as fierce a battleground in biblical times as it is today.
 "The battles between the Arameans (of ancient Syria) and Israelites were governed by the same geopolitical considerations as today: Whoever holds the high ground has a strategic advantage," said archeologist Moshe Kohavi, head of a Tel Aviv University expedition excavating four sites in the Golan Heights.
 The sites are the Leviah Enclosure; Tel Hadar, where a large royal "winter palace" has been unearthed; Tel Soreg; and Rogem Hiri, which has been nicknamed the "Stonehenge of the Golan."
 Afik, a kibbutz where the archeologists are based, preserves the name of the biblical Aphek, the 9th century B.C. battleground where the Israelite King Ahab's chariots and foot soldiers defeated the army of Ben Haddad, the Aramean king, who had conquered much of Israel after sweeping across the Golan.
 Although ancient sites dot the map of the Golan, most are unexplored. The Syrians put the area off limits as a military zone and foreign expeditions have for the most part avoided it since 1967 because it is still disputed.
 "There are more ancient sites than modern ones," said Matti Zohar, a Hebrew University of Jerusa-

"Weapons and armor were precious because they were made of metal. It was very expensive and was not left lying on the battlefield. What is found is usually discovered in caches or in tombs but this is rare."
 — archeologist Moshe Kohavi
 lem archeologist working with Kohavi's expedition.
 Evidence to support the Golan's historical status as a battlefield comes mainly from the cities' construction, especially the high walls.
 "Weapons and armor were precious because they were made of metal," Kohavi said. "It was very expensive and was not left lying on the battlefield. What is found is usually discovered in caches or in tombs but this is rare."
 City walls, the main entrance, private houses and public buildings at Leviah indicate it was a city spread over 20 acres rather than a fort or large cattle pen as previously believed. The emphasis on walls and natural defense gives insight into life during the Bronze Age, 3,000-2,000 B.C.
 "The people lived in large cities,

probably war-like ones, and they chose their sites for strategic reasons," Kohavi said of a half-dozen similar sites in the Golan. "There was apparently no major power to pacify the area."
 Leviah was an exciting find, Kohavi said, because it "proves that the Golan was a thriving population center" as early as the 4th century B.C. "and not a fringe area as had been believed."
 Throughout the Old Testament period the Golan Heights, a volcanic plain 1,650 feet above the Sea of Galilee, was the focus of a power struggle between the Kings of Israel and the Arameans who were based near modern-day Damascus.
 Its importance was recognized by King David, who sought to neutralize the power of the ruler of the Land of Geshur, as the Golan was known, by marrying his daughter Maacah. Their son Absalom later led a rebellion against David.
 Kohavi, seeking the first archeological evidence to confirm the biblical stories, believes one seat of Geshur government may have been Tel Hadar, where archeologists have unearthed a large royal "winter palace." The palace, which covered two acres, was destroyed by fire at the end of the 11th century B.C.
 At Tel Soreg, midway between the Sea of Galilee and Afik, volunteers sifted the remains of the settlement that was continuously inhabited for 2,000 years and is believed by some to have been the biblical Aphek, a possibility Kohavi discounts because it was too small.

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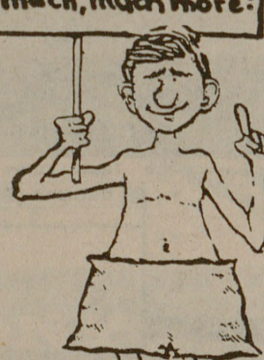
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