

LIFE SUCCESS

for Children with
Learning Disabilities
—A Parent Guide—

www.LDsuccess.org



A project of the FrostigCenter
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Latest Research Identifies Keys to Life Success for Those with Learning Disabilities *Guide Offers Parents New Information on How to Help Their Children Succeed*

PASADENA, CA (August 2003) – Leading learning disabilities (LD) researchers today announced the release of a guide to help parents of children with LD identify and nurture characteristics and behaviors that lead to successful life outcomes.

Called *Life Success for Children with Learning Disabilities – A Parent Guide*, the research guide describes each of the six success attributes – *self-awareness, proactivity, perseverance, goal setting, support systems, and emotional coping strategies* – and how each can aid in a child’s development and ability to overcome LD.

The guide quotes successful adults with LD who help explain each attribute from the viewpoint of individuals who live with LD. There also are recommendations for how to develop success attributes in children with LD, as well as tips on how to recognize if a child possesses any of these important characteristics and behaviors. Each section of the guide is enhanced by whimsical illustrations from Jay Carlton, a successful adult artist with dyslexia.

Drawing on more than 20 years of groundbreaking research tracing the lives of children and adults with LD, researchers at the Frostig Center in Pasadena, California have identified key factors that contribute to success. While offering no guarantees, the researchers discovered that possessing many of the “success attributes” gives those with LD a much better chance at a satisfying and fulfilling life.

“Our research indicates that these characteristics may have a greater influence on success than academic achievement, gender, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, or even IQ,” said Dr. Marshall Raskind, director of research at Frostig.

Normally diagnosed in childhood, a learning disability is a life-long condition that affects many aspects of a person's life. In addition to causing considerable difficulties learning academic skills such as reading, writing, and math, LD can lead to social and emotional problems. It is estimated that as many as 15 percent of the U.S. population is thought to have some type of learning disability. Almost one-third of students with learning disabilities drop out of school – nearly twice the rate of students without LD. In addition, fewer LD students go on to attend a postsecondary school within three to five years of leaving high school – 30.5 percent versus 68 percent of students from the general population.

“We hope that by providing parents of LD children with information about these personal characteristics, attitudes, and behaviors, many more youngsters will then go on to lead successful lives,” said Dr. Roberta Goldberg, a Frostig researcher and guide co-author. “Turning our research findings into tools for achieving a satisfying and rewarding life is what the guide is all about.”

Life Success for Children with Learning Disabilities: A Parent Guide is available to browse or download on the Internet at www.LDsuccess.org. The guide's development and production were made possible by the generous support of the Lund Foundation.

About Frostig Center

Located in Pasadena, California, the Frostig Center is a non-profit organization that specializes in working with children who have learning disabilities. Marianne Frostig, a pioneer in the study, diagnosis, and treatment of learning disabilities, founded the center in 1951. The Frostig Center is dedicated to conducting research on LD, providing professional training and consultation to the community, and offering direct instructional services to children with LD through the Frostig School and other community services.