



# Lots to learn about learning disabilities

**W**atching their child struggling in school can be an overwhelming experience for many parents. Children with learning disabilities can succeed when coping skills and strategies are developed.

The Learning Disabilities Association of Sudbury (LDAS) provides resources and advocacy support to parents as they navigate the school system.

"There are 284 students identified with a learning disability in the Sudbury Catholic District School Board and 835 in the Rainbow District School Board. Early identification is the key to helping young people achieve success in all aspects of their lives," said Wendy Larouche, Resource Facilitator.

shares her expertise teaching special education courses to teachers.

Students who have a reading disability may be unable to decode the letters in words due to different brain processing. However, they're quite capable of comprehension and higher level thinking. One alternate way to process the words is assistive technology, using computer software programs that read to the individual.

In addition to one-on-one support, LDAS offers parents an extensive and current collection of books and videos on learning disabilities in partnership with the Greater Sudbury Public Library's main branch on Mackenzie Street. (Check out the Learning Disability Section for an excellent source of

Average to Above  
Average Intelligence

## Invisible Disability

Brain processes  
information  
differently

Difficulties with:

- writing
- spelling
- reading
- math
- organization

Of all children  
in this country  
with disabilities

**60%**

have a  
learning  
dissability

Great abilities

Lifelong

Often hereditary

Ranges from mild  
to severe

Common  
1 to 10

Learning disabilities is a processing deficit, NOT an intellectual disability.

"An individual with a learning disability is able to learn yet requires a different way of learning. What we do is focus on the strengths. We find strategies that work with their unique strengths and abilities," said Liz Brett-Dickie, chair of LDAS.

She knows first-hand because she has a learning disability and so does her son. As an education professional, Brett-Dickie spent many years in the classroom and now she

information.)

"We also have a coaching program for students in grades 7, 8 and 9, an important transition time. Students are matched with teacher candidates from Laurentian University's School of Education. All benefit from the program: the young student develops self-confidence and learns strategies; the teacher-coach gains understanding of and practical experience with learning disabilities; and the parents receive additional resources to support their child at home," said Brett-Dickie.



*Working together for rising stars*

## Mission

To support all individuals with learning disabilities in reaching their full potential within a community that values their unique contributions and abilities.

### LDAS office

Lockerby Composite School  
1391 Ramsey View Court

### Satellite office

St. Benedict School  
2993 Algonquin Road

**Phone 705.522.0100**

to book an appointment  
email: [resource@ldasudbury.ca](mailto:resource@ldasudbury.ca)

## Services

- One-on-one resource & advocacy support for parents and students.
- Support with the development of your child's Individual Education Plan (IEP).
- Representation at your child's initial Identification Placement and Review Committee (IPRC) meeting.
- Workshops for students, parents and educators.

## Programs

- Coaching program for students in Grades 7, 8 and 9.
- Assistive Technology Camp for students in Grades 6 to 8.

For more information,  
visit the website at  
[www.ldasudbury.ca](http://www.ldasudbury.ca).



**United Way  
Centraide**  
Sudbury and/or  
Nipissing Districts