

Learning Disabilities & Neurofeedback

The National Center for Learning Disabilities has done research on this subject. A few of their findings include:

- ❖ the 2010 U.S. Census found 4.6 million Americans reported having a LD
- ❖ 45% of parents of LD kids say their child has been bullied, and 37% say their child's school doesn't effectively test for LD
- ❖ only 12-26% of high school students with LD got average or better scores on math and reading assessments. For those without LD the rate is 50%.
- ❖ 33% of LD students have been held back a grade. 50% of LD kids have been suspended or expelled from school, as of 2011.
- ❖ 66% of students identified LD are male, while the enrollment in school is equally split between the genders
- ❖ 46% of working-age adults with LD report being employed vs. 71% of those without LD

As of 2017-2018 the number of students who received special ed services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) was 7.0 million, or 14% of all public school students. Other research has found factors that put students at risk for dropping out of high school consist of: low grades, failing classes, absences, and not being on-track. Learning disabled students are worse in all of these areas compared to non-LD students.

There are various approaches for trying to help a student overcome a learning disability. They can include classroom modification, use of technology (e.g. listening to an audio book by a dyslexic), intensive tutoring, computer programs, etc. How successful these are varies. Problems arise such as a strategy like using an audio book might get a student through school but it is not a practical solution for when an adult needs to be able to read to do a job in the work force. School budgets are also always tight and demand and supply for special services like helping LD students are far from being in balance. So many if not most students get short changed from what they need to overcome their learning difficulties.

One alternative approach for LD that has some research behind it is neurofeedback. There have been some findings that it can help with reading and spelling difficulties that are typically found in dyslexia. And that such improvements resulting from neurofeedback were greater than traditional teaching methods in the classroom for these LD students. One study found that neurofeedback over 20 sessions boosted reading by more than a grade level vs. no improvement from the Resource room. Another study found a boost of at least two grade levels after 30-35 sessions of neurofeedback. A third study found an increase of time spent on reading, along with improved reading comprehension, plus higher Verbal and Full IQ scores stemming from neurofeedback for LD students vs. having no such training.



Dr. Sharrie, Neurotherapist
4701 Wrightsville Ave, Bldg. 1
Wilmington, NC 28403
910-524-5277
Dr. Sharrie@gmail.com