Reading

Difficulty in learning to read is the most prominent characteristic associated with learning disabilities. The term dyslexia is often used to denote a reading problem. However, the term dyslexia actually refers to a disorder that interferes with the acquisition and processing of language and affects a variety of performance areas. Individuals with learning disabilities may demonstrate some or most of the following characteristics:

- Does not read for pleasure
- Does not use reading to gather information
- Has problems identifying sounds in spoken words
- Often needs many repetitions to learn to recognize a new or unused word
- Relies heavily on context to new or unused words
- Oral reading contains many errors, repetitions, and pauses
- Efforts in reading are so focused on word recognition that they detract from reading comprehension
- Has problems with comprehension that go beyond word recognition; may have limited language skills that affect comprehension
- Has a limited use of reading strategies; is an inactive reader, not previewing text, monitoring comprehension, or summarizing what is read
- Practices reading rarely, which may compound reading difficulties; lacks complex language and word knowledge

Effective strategies that can be used in the classroom include:

- Audiotapes
- Enlarging the print
- Magnifying devices
- Readers
- Shorten work intervals
- Use of mnemonics