



# Learning Disabilities

A learning disability is not the same as a learning difficulty or mental illness.

Consultant paediatrician Dr Martin Ward Platt says: "It can be very confusing, he says, pointing out that the term

"Learning difficulties" is used by some people to cover the whole range of learning disabilities.

"It is easy to give the impression, by using a term like 'learning difficulties', that a child has less of a disability than they really do," says Dr Ward Platt.

Some children with learning disabilities grow up to be quite independent, while others need help with everyday tasks, such as washing or getting dressed, for their whole lives. It depends on their abilities.

Learning Disabilities Helpline  
0808 808 1111

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