



### Cognition and Learning

General learning difficulties may show themselves in the following ways: low levels of attainment across the board in all forms of assessment including baseline assessments; difficulty in acquiring skills (notably in reading and numeracy) on which much other learning in school depends; difficulty in dealing with abstract ideas and generalising from experience; a range of associated difficulties, notably in speech and language and in social and emotional development.



### Physical

The term 'physical disabilities' is broad and covers a range of disabilities and health issues, including both congenital and acquired disabilities. Within that range are physical disabilities or impairments that interfere with a child's ability to attain the same developmental milestones as his or her peers. An example of this is dyspraxia – a problem with the body's system of motion that interferes with a person's ability to make a controlled or coordinated physical response in a given situation.

### Speech and Language

Speech and language disorders refer to problems in communication and related areas such as oral motor function. These delays and disorders range from simple sound substitutions to the inability to understand or use language or use the oral-motor mechanism for functional speech and feeding.



Always  
Unique  
Totally  
Interesting  
SOMETIMES  
MYSTERIOUS



### Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a life-long developmental disability that affects the way a person is able to communicate and relate to people around them. Some people with ASD will have learning disabilities. Others have average or above-average intelligence: included in this group are those with Asperger's Syndrome (or high-functioning autism). Recognised characteristics of ASD: communication

impairment (problems with word usage and understanding), difficulties with social skills and empathy with others, a narrow range of interests and difficulties with imagination, a developmental disorder which begins before age three and affects all aspects of life.