

Foundation Stage Checklist

Early Signs which may suggest Specific Learning Difficulties

Watch out for the child who does not outgrow the following possible indicators:

- Has poor phonological awareness - cannot easily analyse the sounds in spoken words or blend sounds to make words
- Has difficulty learning nursery rhymes
- Has difficulty keeping to a simple rhyme
- Has difficulty in paying attention, sitting still, listening to stories
- Likes listening to stories but shows no interest in letters or words
- Has difficulty learning to sing or recite the alphabet
- Has a history of slow speech development
- Gets words muddled, e.g. *cubumber, flutterby*
- Finds it hard to carry out two or more instructions at one time (e.g. put the toys in the box, then put the box on the shelf) but is fine if tasks are presented in smaller units
- Forgets names of friends, teacher, colours
- Has difficulty cutting, sticking and crayoning in comparison with their peer group
- Has persistent difficulty in dressing, e.g. finds shoelaces and buttons difficult
- Puts clothes and/or shoes on the wrong way round
- Has difficulty with catching, kicking or throwing a ball
- Often trips, bumps into things and falls over
- Has difficulty hopping or skipping
- Has obvious 'good' and 'bad' days for no apparent reason

A child who has a cluster of these difficulties may have Specific Learning Difficulties, but remember that the levels of development and speed of learning differ significantly for each child in this age group.