

Reading problems may signal learning troubles

In early elementary school, children learn to read. By about third grade, they *read to learn*. This is when some learning disabilities stand out. Look for these warning signs:

- **Strong thinking skills** combined with trouble reading.
- **Slow progress** in reading and writing.
- **Frequent hesitation** (such as, “Ummm...”) when figuring out new words.
- **Not understanding** the meaning of what he reads.
- **Lack of interest** in reading for fun.
- **Messy handwriting** but good typing skills. Sloppy handwriting could signal that your child isn’t hearing a word correctly.



If you’re worried that your child may have a learning disability, talk with the teacher. There are many excellent resources available to help.