

Resource Guide for Common Disabilities

Mood Disorder is a condition whereby the presenting emotional mood is distorted or inappropriate to the situation. Types of mood disorders include depression, and bipolar disorder, and high anxiety.

Cerebral Palsy (CP) is a term encompassing a group of non-progressive, non-contagious diseases that cause a physical disability in the person. There is no known cure for CP.

Epilepsy is a nerve disorder characterized by repeated seizures. The seizures are signs of excessive activity in the brain.

Dyslexia is a specific learning disability that affects many people. The primary problem is with written language, particularly with reading and spelling. Dyslexia occurs at all levels of intelligence.

OCD, or Obsessive Compulsive Disorder is a psychiatric disorder manifested in a variety of forms, most commonly characterized by a person's obsession to perform a particular task or set of tasks.

Dementia is the steady and worsening decline in cognitive functions, due to damage or disease in the brain beyond the normal human aging process.

Hearing loss is a full or part decrease in the ability to detect or understand sounds. Hearing loss can be inherited if a family has a dominant gene for deafness.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), and sometimes called **Lou Gehrig's Disease**, is one of the most common neuromuscular diseases occurring worldwide.

Club Foot or Feet. A clubfoot is a birth defect. The foot is twisted in and down. It is a common birth defect, occurring in about one in every 1,000 births.

Schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is a psychiatric diagnosis that describes a mental illness. A person with schizophrenia may show symptoms like disorganized thinking, hallucinations, and delusions.

Psoriasis is a disease which affects the skin and joints. It commonly causes red scaly patches to appear on the skin.

Cleft lip or palate. A cleft is a congenital deformity caused by a failure in facial development during pregnancy. The term hare lip is sometimes mis-used to describe the condition.

Meniere's Disease. The disorder usually affects only one ear with a continuous ringing and is a common cause of hearing loss.

Asperger's Syndrome is described as having social skills deficits, reluctance to listen, difficulty understanding social give and take, and other core characteristics.

Amputation is the removal of a body extremity by a trauma accident, or surgery. A **prosthesis** is an artificial extension that replaces a missing body part.

Speech differences Stuttering is generally not a problem with the physical production of speech sounds or putting thoughts into words. Stuttering has no bearing on intelligence.

Poliomyelitis, polio or infantile paralysis. Acute viral disease spread primarily via the fecal-oral route. Spinal polio is the most common, resulting from viral invasion of the motor neurons. A polio immunization shot can now prevent all cases.

Parkinson's disease is a progressing degenerative disorder of the central nervous system that impairs motor skills and speech. Early signs and symptoms may sometimes be taken as normal aging.

Wheelchairs are used by people for whom walking is difficult or impossible due to illness, injury, or disability.

Asthma is a chronic condition involving the respiratory system. The airways become constricted, inflamed, and lined with excessive amounts of mucus. This happens in response to one or more triggers, such as environmental factors- dampness, pollen, smoke, grass seed, pet hair and dander, or even anxiety.

Other: _____