

Assisting Students with Learning Disabilities
Resources available in the
PEEL/HALTON LANGUAGE TEACHERS' RESOURCE CENTRE

Books

Different Brains, Different Learners – How to Reach the Hard to Reach
Eric Jensen **(Available in the LTRC)**

Associations:

Learning Disabilities Associations within Peel Region

<http://www.ldapeel.com/>

Learning Disabilities Associations of America

<http://www.ldanatl.org/about/index.asp>

Websites:

LD Online

<http://www.ldonline.org/>

Guides:

A Practical Guide to Teaching Adults with Learning Disabilities

http://www.education.gov.qc.ca/fileadmin/site_web/documents/temp/DFGA/Alphabetisation/41-3018a.pdf

SOME GENERAL TIPS FOR TEACHERS OF EXCEPTIONAL STUDENTS

- Present tasks in uncomplicated, brief and sequential fashion.
- Ensure mastery of new material through repetition and over learning.
- Apply learning to other situations, objects, and problems in learner's environment.
- Emphasize concrete, meaningful content in instructional presentations.
- Increase interest by highlighting relevant dimensions and minimizing extraneous stimuli.
- Promote an atmosphere of success.
- Sequence tasks from simple to more complex.
- Employ a variety of methods to both present material and reinforce learning.
- Most importantly, identify the student's "island of competence", (which is usually the thing/area they are most interested in), and make that work for you, irrespective of the discipline that you are specifically teaching. It provides a place to start, and, by extension, a place to move forward from. Also where behaviour is concerned, it allows you to "strategically load" situations, which then may set in motion a process whereby self-esteem, rapport, respect, etc. can be nurtured.