

Book Review

A Handbook on Learning Disabilities. Editors Nandini Mundkur and Chitra Sankar. Bangalore Children's Hospital and Research Centre, 6, Ground Floor, Chitrapur Bhavan, 8th Main, 15th Cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore 560 003, Karnataka. Publishers: Sachkumvit Trust, Pages 1-70, Price: Rs. 100.

It is heartening to have a book on Learning Disabilities written by Indian Pediatricians. As mentioned by the authors Learning problems in children are not new but the understanding of causes of such problems has definitely changed over the past 10 years. Parents and teachers are now in a position to recognize the child's difficulties in academic field. Learning disabilities form a major cause of poor school performance in children from regular schools. Dr. Mundkar and Dr. Chitra Sankar have highlighted etiology, clinical features, approach to diagnosis and management of learning disabilities in their book.

All the chapters are written in a simple language and comprehensive manner. Role of Pediatrician is well described. The Classification of learning disabilities as per ICD 10 and DSM IV is mentioned in Table format. The chapter on normal development in children upto 5 years of age is written in brief and includes information in the form of common questions and their answers. This will be useful for the readers to know the problem in a better way. The language development in young children and specific indications for referral for detail assessment are clearly mentioned. Also, some of the tests useful in diagnosis of learning disabilities are well-described.

Overall it is a good book to get sensitized to the issue of learning disabilities. Pediatricians will surely find it interesting to find the basic facts about learning disabilities.

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