



Dr. B. Duncan McKinlay
Psychologist

London, ON, Canada
email. duncan@lifesatwitch.com
url. www.lifesatwitch.com

Website:
Tourette Syndrome • OCD
ADHD • Sensory • ODD/ 'Rage'

UNDERSTANDING DISORDER

Overview: Nonverbal Learning Disorder (NLD)

- DIAGNOSIS** — -No formal DSM-IV recognition: speak of “features” of NLD
-Often associated with various PDD’s, brain injury, neurological conditions: recognized through pattern of neuropsychological strengths and weaknesses
- MODEL** — -‘White Matter’ model (Rourke). Right hemisphere.
-Visual-perceptual, visual-spatial, tactile-perceptual and psychomotor deficiencies
- APPEARANCE** —
- TODDLER:* limited exploratory behaviours
late language development
- PRESCHOOL:* low flexibility
very good at concrete, rote exercises
difficulty grasping cause and effect
- SCHOOL-AGE:* good at language, math variable
visuospatial poor, motor problems
- “MISS” SOCIAL CUES:*
- prosody errors
 - literal
 - don’t ask questions of others
 - left out of the ‘hidden curriculum’ (Lavoie)
 - overstimulation inundates child, no room for subtleties; blunders ascribed to personality
- PREVALENCE** — Hard to infer: recent ‘increases’ due to increased awareness
Distinct disorder?
- not all symptoms unique to NLD,
 - every case doesn’t have every symptom