

Let's Talk Learning Disabilities

EPISODE 06

In this Episode, Laurie and Abbey introduce visual processing disorders and the chief complaints they encounter when working with visual processing challenges. Many times, visual processing disorders are mistaken for other learning disorders, before ultimately finding the correct treatment needed. In the following episode, we'll be joined by a visual processing specialist who has experience with patients that have visual processing disorders.

Visual Processing & Common Complaints (2 min)

Visual processing disorders can show up differently in each individual and can interfere with daily activities. This makes them both a challenge to diagnose, and to find treatment that is right for each person. Many common symptoms or complaints that arise in individuals with visual processing disorders include reversing letters, letters showing up backwards. Another complaint is having letters appear as if they are moving on the page. Some people will also skip words or even whole lines of text when reading. Others will process words backwards when reading, such as seeing the word "was" and understanding it as reading "saw."

Commonly Misdiagnosed for Dyslexia (4 min)

Because Dyslexia is often known to be recognized as scrambling words, or writing letters backwards, many times children with a visual processing disorder are diagnosed with Dyslexia before realizing that's not the case. Ruling out Dyslexia can be done through really spending time with the student who is having the challenges in reading to identify whether it is in fact dyslexia, or is it maybe something else.

Commonly Misdiagnosed for ADHD (8 min)

Students with visual processing disorders have trouble finishing assignments or staying on task because they're trying to focus on one line of text, or a few words, and in reality, their brain is also processing everything else in their line of sight at the same time. In someone who has a visual processing disorder, the inability to zero in on a specific thing visually, or the way their eyes are not working together

actually has a lot more to do with not being able to finish an assignment, or focus, than their ability to keep attention.

Treatment for Visual Processing Disorders (10 min)

Vision therapy and lenses are the most effective treatments that have been found in treating those with visual processing disorders. Vision therapy can help to train your eyes which helps with the way your brain processes information received. Lenses can help in different ways, Laurie and Abbey share about one of their clients who said when they are wearing their lenses, they can actually see the spaces between the words on the page, and when they are not using the lenses, all of the words run together. Ultimately, seeking a diagnostician can help with the testing and assessing needed to discover what can help with the challenges you or your student are having.

Success Stories (15 min)

Laurie and Abbey have seen a range of people who may even have come to them for Dyslexia or ADHD, only then to find that they actually have a visual processing disorder. Testing, assessments, and spending time with their clients is what allows them to find the best treatment possible for them.

Resources:

Contact info for the podcast: letstalklearningdisabilities@gmail.com

E-Diagnostic Learning Website: <https://ediagnosticlearning.com>

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