

Comparison Chart for LD and EL Learning and Behavior

	Learning/Behavior Often Associated with Learning Disability	Learning/Behavior Expected from English Learners
Language	Preschool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ slow speech development ▪ pronunciation problems ▪ difficulty learning new words ▪ difficulty following simple directions ▪ difficulty understanding questions ▪ difficulty expressing needs ▪ difficulty rhyming words 	The Silent Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ speaks very little English ▪ may not respond when spoken to ▪ difficulty expressing needs ▪ pronunciation problems ▪ difficulty identifying and isolating phonemes not common or present in native language
	Elementary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ slow learning sound-symbol correspondence ▪ difficulty remembering sight words ▪ difficulty retelling a story in sequence 	Early Production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ speaks in single words and phrases ▪ phrases may contain notable grammatical errors ▪ difficulty with unfamiliar language structures
Cognition	Preschool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ trouble memorizing ▪ difficulty with cause and effect ▪ difficulty with basic concepts 	The Silent Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ difficulty following directions ▪ difficulty understanding questions
	Elementary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ poor working memory ▪ trouble organizing thoughts ▪ inconsistency over time 	Early Production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ may be easily frustrated ▪ may lack specific vocabulary or struggle with the “right” words ▪ may struggle with even simple writing tasks
		Intermediate Stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ may appear more proficient than is ▪ speech may have surpassed other skills ▪ may be slow processing challenging language ▪ may understand more than s/he is able to demonstrate
Attention	Preschool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ high distractibility ▪ impulsive behaviors ▪ unusually restless ▪ difficulty staying on task ▪ difficulty changing activities 	The Silent Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ may exhibit poor attention ▪ may exhibit poor concentration ▪ may overly rely on visual cues
	Elementary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ difficulty concentrating ▪ difficulty following multiple directions ▪ difficulty finishing work on time 	Early Production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ may seem to have trouble concentrating ▪ may seem unmotivated to complete tasks (especially independently)
Social	Preschool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ trouble interacting with peers ▪ easily frustrated ▪ withdrawn ▪ poor self-control 	The Silent Period <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ may be withdrawn ▪ may prefer to play by self or only with children who have the same native language ▪ may have low self-esteem
	Elementary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ difficulty interpreting facial expressions ▪ difficulty understanding social situations ▪ apparent lack of common sense ▪ misinterpreting behavior of peers 	Early Production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ may not know social norms ▪ may be uncomfortable participating in class discussions
		Intermediate Stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ may attempt to hide deficiencies from peers and adults ▪ may use avoidance behaviors to avoid embarrassment