

DEFINITIONS

Abduction - Movement of a limb outward away from the body.

Adaptive Behavior - Behavior which has been changed to more appropriately fit a given situation.

Adduction - Movement of a limb toward the center of the body.

Affective - Refers to feelings or emotions.

Ataxia - Condition in which central nervous system deficiencies lead to uncoordinated muscle movement.

Audiogram - A graph showing the range of hearing. Hearing sensitivity for air and bone conducted sounds may be shown on the graph.

Audiologist - A person who identifies and measures hearing loss and helps in the rehabilitation of those with hearing problems.

Auditory Discrimination - The ability to detect subtle differences among sounds in words (tap-cap; cap-cop).

Auditory Figure-Ground Discrimination - The ability to concentrate on what one should listen to and to ignore what is unimportant (following conversation in a noisy atmosphere).

Autism - The state of being autistic is characterized by unusual responses to sensory stimuli; insistence on sameness; difficulty in relating appropriately to people, events and objects; and an absence, delay or disorder in language, speech or communication. The term has been used interchangeably with childhood schizophrenia and pervasive developmental disorder. Recent research is concentrating on neurobiological causes.

Behavior Modifications - A procedure that is based on the belief that all behavior is learned and, therefore, can be unlearned (changed). One must decide the specific behavior to be changed and decide on a definite plan for accomplishing that goal.

Bilateral - Pertaining to the use of both sides of the body at the same time in a particular task.

Brain Damage - Any structural or chemical defect of the brain. This damage could occur before, during or any time after birth.

Brain-Injured Child - A child who before, during or after birth has received an injury to or suffered an infection of the brain. As a result of this, there are disturbances, which prevent or hinder the normal learning process.

Brain Scan - This procedure is similar to an x-ray. A fluid is injected into a vein. The fluid takes about 30 minutes to reach the brain. Pictures are then taken which allow the doctors to see if there are any diseased tissues such as tumors present. The fluid leaves the body in six hours.

Central Nervous System (CNS) - The system of nerves and nerve centers including the brain, spinal cord and ganglia (gray mass of nerve tissues outside the brain and spinal cord).

Cerebral Palsy - A general term used to describe several conditions resulting from injury to the brain; usually before or immediately after birth, varies widely in degree of severity and body parts affected. There are three major types:

1. Spastic - constant tense and tight muscles.
2. Athetoid - characterized by a constant succession of involuntary movements.
3. Ataxia - loss of muscle coordination

Chromosomes - Units in the nucleus of a cell, which are responsible for transmitting genetic information.

Chronological Age - Age determined by birth date.

Cognitive - The act or process of knowing. Analytical or logical thinking.

Cognitive Impairment – A person identified by an Individualized Educational Planning Committee, as having the following characteristics:

- (1) Cognitive Impairment shall be manifested during the developmental period and be determined through the demonstration of all of the following behavioral characteristics:
 - a. Development at a rate at or below approximately 2 standard deviations below the mean as determined through intellectual assessment.
 - b. Scores approximately within the lowest 6 percentiles on a standardized test in reading and arithmetic. This requirement will not apply if the

student is not of an age, grade, or mental age appropriate for formal or standardized achievement tests.

- c. Lack of development primarily in the cognitive domain.
- d. Impairment of adaptive behavior.
- e. Adversely affects a student's educational performance.

(2) A determination of impairment shall be based upon a comprehensive evaluation by a multidisciplinary evaluation team, which shall include a psychologist.

Convulsion - A seizure in which there may be a loss of consciousness and which might involve involuntary tightening of muscles and/or jerking movements of arms and legs.

Convulsive Disorder - The term is sometimes used interchangeably with seizure disorder and epilepsy. See grand, petit mal, and psychomotor seizure. There are many other types of epilepsy.

Crossing the Midline - The ability to perform tasks requiring that the eyes or extremities cross the midline of the body. For example, the ability to touch the left shoulder with the right hand.

Discrimination - The process of detecting differences.

Down's Syndrome - The medical term for a mongoloid child. A condition associated with abnormal chromosomes. Characteristics include small skull, slightly flattened; short, flat bridge nose; shortened fingers, upward slant of the eyes; and moderate to severe mental impairment.

Electrocardiogram (EKG) - A machine known as an electrocardiograph is used. It picks up the small amount of electricity given off by the heart muscle contractions and records it. This enables the doctor to determine if there are any malfunctions in the heart. This is a painless test.

Electroencephalogram (EEG) - The brain cells give off very small amounts of electricity known as brain waves. A painless test is taken by a machine called the electroencephalograph which records the brain waves. This helps doctors determine which brain cells are injured and capable of over activity.

Emotionally Impaired (EI) - Characterized by withdrawal, explosiveness, inability to get along with others, hyperactivity, or acting out in society.

Epilepsy - A neurological disorder marked by sudden and recurring seizures (many different kinds).

Extension - Straightening of any part of the body.

Eye-Motor Coordination - The ability to relate vision with movements of the body or parts of the body.

Figure-Ground Distortion - This occurs when a person cannot focus on an object; having the background interfere.

Figure-Ground Perception - The ability to distinguish an object from the background.

Fine-Motor Coordination - The development and control of small muscles such as those used to cut, hold a pencil, etc.

Flaccid - Floppy

Flexion - Bending of a body joint; elbows, hips, knees.

Grand Mal - Epileptic seizure. Typically the loss of consciousness, all muscles tightening up, usually some jerky movement of legs and arms. The epileptic may froth at the mouth, wet or soil themselves, bite their tongue or cheek, roll their eyeballs.

Gross Motor - The development and awareness of large muscle activity. Coordination of large muscles in a purposeful manner such as walking and jumping.

1. Bilateral - ability to move both sides of the body at the same time (jumping).
2. Unilateral - ability to move one side of the body without moving the other (hopping).
3. Cross Lateral - (Cross Pattern) - ability to move different parts of the opposite sides of the body together or in different sequence (skipping). It is a highly integrated movement.

Group Home - An alternative to institutional living.

Habilitation - The act of preparing for a useful life through education, training or treatment.

Hard-of-Hearing (Hearing Impaired) - Those in whom the sense of hearing, although defective, is functional with or without a hearing aid.

Head Control - An instrument to make sounds louder and/or clearer.

Hemiplegia - Paralysis of one side of the body.

Hydrocephalus - Condition marked by an abnormal accumulation of fluid in the skull resulting in an enlarged head and prominent forehead. When diagnosed early (see Shunt), the enlargement often can be halted by surgically inserting a shunt.

Hyperactive - Hyperkinesis - Hyperkinetic - Person who is abnormally over-active and lacking the ability to control himself. The child may be constantly in motion, always into things and difficult to restrain.

Hypertonic - Increased muscle tension as in a spasm.

Hypotonic - Defective muscle tone or tension.

Intelligence Quotient (IQ) - A ratio indicating how one's mental ability compares with others of the same age. It can also be expressed in terms of a mental age for children under the age of 16. Approximately 75% of the population have IQ's between 85 and 115.

Intelligence Test - A standardized test, which gives the statistic indicating one's mental ability. The tests provide an overall estimate of general intelligence.

Language - Expressive - Speaking and Writing.

Language - Receptive - Listening and reading.

Lethargy - Abnormal drowsiness, marked lack of energy and sluggish behavior. This may be noted as a side effect of some medication, or an indication of illness.

Locomotion - Movement from one place to another (walking, rolling, crawling).

Mental Age - Age level of mental ability determined by standardized intelligence tests.

Mental Retardation - Refers to a level of functioning. The functioning level is said to be subnormal (significantly below normal); it originates during the development period (infancy and early childhood). Subnormal functioning is associated with defects in either learning and social adjustment or maturation (natural growth).

Microcephaly - Abnormal smallness of the head.

Midline - Imaginary line equally separating one side of the body from the other.

Mildly Mentally Retarded - See Educable Mentally Impaired

Minimal Brain Dysfunction (MBD) - Neurological deficiency or suspected nerve damage within the brain. Usually results in some type of learning disability.

Moderately Retarded/Impaired - A mental health term to describe a form of mental retardation. The same as trainable retarded in education.

Motivation - Desire to accomplish something or reach a goal.

Motor - Pertaining to muscular activity.

Occupational Therapist (OTR) - A person who specializes in helping students to develop and maintain skills necessary to perform tasks essential to activities of daily living.

Occupational Therapy (OT) - Treatment provided by a therapist trained in helping the patient develop mental as well as physical well-being in all areas of daily life; e.g., self-care, pre-vocational skills, etc. The therapist involves the patient in active participation of the treatment process to help speed up the recovery and rehabilitation process.

Orthopedics - A branch of medicine concerned with treatment of diseases and deformities of bones, joints and muscles.

Petit-Mal - A form of epilepsy which to the onlooker has the appearance of daydreaming or staring into space for a few moments - sometimes the eyes blink. Slight jerking of the legs or arms may occur.

Physical Therapist (RPT) - A person who specializes in services intended to initiate or improve mobility, performance and physical participation in school, recreational, home and community activities.

Physical Therapy (PT) - Treatment of disorders of bones, joints, muscles and nerves. With the prescription of a physician, the therapist applies treatment to the patient in the form of heat, light, massage, exercise.

Postnatal - Occurring after birth.

Prenatal - Occurring before birth.

Prone - Lying on stomach

Psychologist - A person trained to do standardized psychological testing to groups or individuals.

Psychomotor - Muscle responses (see Fine Motor Coordination and Gross Motor Coordination).

Psychomotor Seizures - An epileptic attack which is characterized by a variety of abnormal behavior performances with some change of consciousness. There may be picking at the clothes, lip smacking, chewing movements, mumbled speech, purposeless movements of the arms or legs.

Quadriplegia - All extremities and trunk muscles involved.

Receptive Language - Receiving and understanding spoken or written communication. The receptive language skills are listening and reading.

Reflex - An involuntary or automatic response. The eyes automatically blink to reflex action if a moving object approaches within an inch or two of them.

Rehabilitation - A procedure to restore a person to a condition of good health, useful, or constructive activity.

Scoliosis - Lateral (side-to-side) curvature of the spine.

Seizure - Sudden attack occurring when a group of brain cells become overactive causing disharmony in the brain. This may remain in one area or spread to other areas of the brain. After the seizure has ended, harmony is restored among the brain cells (see Epilepsy, Grand Mal, Petit Mal).

Self-Concept - A person's idea of himself.

Severely Multiply Impaired (SXI) - A person identified by an Individualized Educational Planning Committee, based upon previous medical records, any educational history, evaluation by a neurologist, orthopedic surgeon, ophthalmologist, audiologist, or equivalent, and other pertinent information, as having all the following behavioral characteristics:

1. Development at a rate of 2 to 3 standard deviations below the mean and 2 or more of the following conditions:

- a. A hearing impairment so severe that the auditory channel is not the primary means of developing speech and language skills.
 - b. A visual impairment so severe that the visual channel is not sufficient to guide independent mobility.
 - c. A physical impairment so severe that activities of daily living cannot be achieved without assistance.
 - d. A health impairment so severe that the student is medically at risk.
2. Development at a rate of 3 or more standard deviations below the mean or students for whom evaluation instruments do not provide a valid measure of cognitive ability and 1 or more of the following conditions:
- a. A hearing impairment so severe that the auditory channel is not the primary means of developing speech and language skills.
 - b. A visual impairment so severe that the visual channel is not sufficient to guide independent mobility.
 - c. A physical impairment so severe that activities of daily living cannot be achieved without assistance.
 - d. A health impairment so severe that the student is medically at risk.

Sheltered Workshop (SWS) - A facility licensed by the State and Federal Department of Labor to employ handicapped persons at less than the minimum wage. Sheltered workshops may use actual work to provide job training or evaluate handicapped persons' interests and abilities.

Shunt - A "tube with a valve", surgically inserted for the purpose of regulating or diverting the flow of spinal fluid in the body. Prevents excessive fluid from surrounding the brain as a hydrocephalus.

Sibling - A brother or sister.

Social Worker - A person trained to provide therapy or counseling designed to help others adjust to their environment or social situations.

School Social Worker (SSW) - A person working in a school system and approved by the Michigan Department of Education

(MSW) - Social Worker with a Master's Degree. May also be a school social worker.

Special Education - Programs or services designed to meet the individual needs of children who deviate from the "normal" or "average" either physically, mentally, socially or emotionally, and who need different methods, materials and techniques in order to develop their maximum potential.

Spina Bifida - Development defect in the bony part of the spinal cord.

Standard Deviation - A measure on a standardized intelligence test by Wechsler of 15 points either above or below the accepted normal range of 90-105 IQ. Two standard deviations equal +30 points.

Supine - Lying on back.

Symmetrical - Both sides equal.

Syndrome - Set of symptoms which occur together.

Tactile Discrimination - Ability to identify and match objects by touching and feeling.

Task Analysis - Technique of examining a particular task to discover each individual part of it and the processes needed to perform it.

Therapy - Any form of treatment that is designed to lead to improvement of a physical, mental, emotional or social problem.

Tongue Thrust - Tendency of tongue to be thrust forward and out during feeding.

Total Communication - Method of teaching the deaf using lip reading, auditory training, speech development, signing and finger spelling.

Visual Discrimination - Using the eyes to discriminate letters and words.

Visual-Motor Coordination - The ability to use the eyes to coordinate muscle movement, such as those required in eye/hand tasks.

Visually Impaired (VI) - A person identified by an Individualized Educational Planning Committee, based on an evaluation by an ophthalmologist, or equivalent, and other useful information as having a sight impairment which interferes with learning.