



## Cognitive difficulties


### What is it?

A student with cognitive difficulties is a student who has a general level of academic attainment significantly lower than that of their peers. Low cognitive ability will result in difficulty acquiring literacy and numeracy skills. Other difficulties may include associated speech and language delay, low self esteem, low levels of concentration and underdeveloped social skills.

### Signs and symptoms

General developmental delay	Do not find learning easy/ Low IQ	Poor self esteem which may result in poor behaviour	Short attention span
Poor working memory	Struggle with social skills	Difficulties with basic literacy and numeracy	Reasoning and coordination skills underdeveloped

### Strategies

Scaffolding	Word banks 	Allow extra time	Break down tasks into small chunks with plenty of opportunities for reinforcement
Realistic learning objective	Positive praise and encouragement	Check understanding by asking to repeat task back	Question in lessons by telling them you will ask them, ask someone else, then ask them
Repeat same information in various ways	Concrete examples: show and tell	Don't ask to read aloud to whole class	Focus on "big picture" rather than small spelling mistakes (for example)
Alternate methods to same outcome (not a whole story, maybe a storyboard)	Bullet point information		