

Similarities

Some Similarities Between LD and Language Acquisition	
<i>Behaviors Associated w/ LD</i>	<i>Behaviors when Acquiring an L2</i>
Difficulty following directions	Difficulty following directions because the directions were not well understood; it can be harder to remember directions in a second language.
Difficulty with phonological awareness	Difficulty auditorily distinguishing between sounds not in one's first language, or sounds that are presented in a different order.
Slow to learn sound-symbol correspondence	Confusion with sound-symbol correspondence when it is different than in one's first language. Difficulty pronouncing sounds not in the first language.
Difficulty remembering sight words	Difficulty remembering sight words when word meanings are not understood.
Difficulty retelling a story in sequence	Difficulty retelling a story in English without the expressive skills to do so; yet the student might understand more than s/he can convey (i.e., receptive skills in English might be stronger than expressive skills).
Confusion with figurative language	Confusion with figurative language, idioms, pronouns, conjunctions, and words with multiple meanings.
Slow to process challenging language	Slow to process challenging language because it is not well understood.
May have poor auditory memory	May seem to have poor auditory memory if sounds or words are unfamiliar or not well understood.
May have difficulty concentrating	Learning in a second language is mentally exhausting; therefore, ELLs may seem to have difficulty concentrating at times.
May seem easily frustrated	Learning in a second language can be frustrating.