

Back-to-School Resources

Before the school year begins, spend some time on additudemag.com/school to find even more advice on working with teachers, helping with homework, and setting up your child to achieve success at school.



Books

Quirky Kids: Understanding and Helping Your Child Who Doesn't Fit In—When to Worry and When Not to Worry, by Perri Klass, M.D., and Eileen Costello, M.D. (Ballantine). Two pediatricians provide the expert guidance and illuminate the confusing list of terms often applied to quirky children—from Asperger's syndrome and nonverbal learning disability to obsessive-compulsive behavior and sensory-integration dysfunction.

A Mind at a Time: How Every Child Can Succeed, by Mel Levine, M.D. (Simon & Schuster). An expert in the field of child development and learning describes the complex workings of the brain, and offers parents and teachers insights for helping children who struggle in school.

Wrightslaw: From Emotions to Advocacy, by Pamela Wright and Pete Wright (Harbor House Law). *Wrightslaw* is widely regarded as the definitive manual for all parents of children with ADHD or learning disabilities. This book removes the guesswork from the special-education system. Read it before your next meeting to discuss your child's IEP or 504 Plan.

Learning Outside the Lines: Two Ivy League Students with Learning Disabilities and ADHD Give You the Tools for Academic Success and Educational Revolution, by Jonathan Mooney and David Cole (Fireside). With advice on "cramming like a pro" and skimming for comprehension, this tell-it-like-it-is guide is a must for any high school or college student with ADHD or LD.



Software

Kidspiration (for grades K–5) and **Inspiration** (for grades 6–12). Mind-mapping software lets visual learners express their ideas for an essay or project in a graphic format and link them together later to create an outline. (both available from inspiration.com)

Co:Writer 4000 A boon to struggling writers, Co:Writer reads aloud the words a user has typed. It also helps writers speed up their writing by completing sentences using common phrasing. (donjohnston.com)

Dragon Naturally Speaking This voice-recognition software helps students put ideas on paper by typing as they speak. (nuance.com/naturallyspeaking)



Websites

For general information on ADHD & LD:

Chadd.org

CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder) offers local support services to parents, teachers, and other professionals. Its website features an online community, an ADD directory, and information about your child's legal rights at school.

Ldonline.org

The Learning Disabilities Online site offers parents, teachers, and kids a wealth of information about learning disabilities. The site features FAQs, expert advice, and several forums.

Schwablearning.org

Schwab Learning's website features articles about managing ADHD and learning disabilities, getting financial assistance, and improving reading and writing skills. It hosts a parent-to-

parent message board, and it offers a weekly newsletter and an extensive list of software for students in all subject areas and grade levels.

For legal references and advice:

Copaa.org

COPAA (Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates) helps parents secure high-quality educational services for children with disabilities. Search its website for member attorneys and advocates in your area.

Wrightslaw.com

This website focuses on special-education law and advocacy for children with disabilities. It offers a comprehensive caselaw library, breaking special-education news, and an e-newsletter, as well as useful tips on writing an IEP.