## HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSITUTE OF RELIGION CALIFORNIA SCHOOL

### SUBMISSION AND RECEIPT OF COMPLETED PROJECT

I,		
hereby submit two (2) copies of our completed project in final form entitled:  Resource Directory for Learning Disabilities		
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RECEIPT BY REGISTRAR		
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Caral Aufer Registrar		

## HEBREW UNION COLLEGE-JEWISH INSTITUE OF RELIGION CALIFORNIA SCHOOL

In co-operation with

## UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Resource Directory for Learning Disabilities

# Resource Directory



For Learning Disabilities: Local and National Listings

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## דוך לנער על פי דרכו "Teach every child according to his or her way"

#### Introduction

For as long as I can remember, I have struggled with learning difficulties that have significantly impacted my educational experience. It wasn't until the middle of my college experience, that I learned more about learning disabilities and the manner in which they affected me. My advisor and teachers were supportive and worked with me in school. Nonetheless, I struggled with exams, assignments, and writing assignments in particular. Because I attended a small University, I received appropriate accommodations without much difficulty. Overall, I found my college experience to be extremely challenging as I faced several limitations, but I was able to graduate as planned.

As I made plans to further my education and pursue a double masters degree, I knew that it would be necessary to provide the school with written documentation of my learning difficulties in order to get appropriate accommodations. Several people recommended that I seek services from an educational therapist. I took their advice and I completed a series of educational tests. I am proud to say that I am a success story and I am about to graduate with two masters degrees in May 2004. I know that I couldn't have done it without the necessary resources and support that I received from many different people. It is my goal and intention to give back to others in the community by creating this resource guide.

To date, most of the directories I have come across have been guides for general disabilities and not specifically designed for learning disabilities. This resource directory will focus on services for Attention Deficit Disorder and Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder, and support for Learning Disabilities in general. The directory includes: general information, agencies, school programs, helpful resources/books, and additional information that will assist one in the process of gaining accommodations. This resource directory is designed to be as parent friendly as possible.

#### General information on LD, ADD, & ADHD:

#### LD: Learning Disabilities

Learning disabilities affect many individuals who usually have average or above average levels of intelligence. Even so, these individuals are hindered by their disabilities in their educational and career paths, and they are unable to achieve at their full potential. Specific learning disabilities are disorders in one or more of the basic learning processes in understanding or using language, or affecting the ability to listen, speak, read, write, spell, or process mathematical calculations. The term "learning disability" describes a neurobiological disorder in which a person's brain works or is structured differently from a person who is not faced with LD. These particular differences in discussion are problematic in that they interfere with a person's ability to think and remember. Since learning disabilities are not visible in individuals, they often go undetected at the expense of the child or adult who is affected by the disability and lead to long-term frustration.

According to research collected by the National Institute of Health, one in seven Americans has some type of learning disability, which is also about fifteen percent of the American population. As many as 80% of students with learning disabilities have reading problems which are considered to be the most common disabilities, along with language skills. In addition, 2.9 million school-aged children in the United States are classified as having specific learning disabilities and received some type of accommodation in the classroom setting.

#### Symptoms/signs of learning disabilities in individuals:

Some symptoms can be recognized in individuals, but it is often difficult to do so as the severity and characteristics are different for every person with LD.

- Inconsistent school performance
- Short attention span
- Frequent confusion about directions and time
- Personal disorganization
- Impulsive and/or inappropriate behavior
- Difficulty understanding and following instructions unless they are broken down to two tasks at a time
- Seems immature vies a vies age appropriate maturity
- Has difficulty making friends
- Trouble remembering what someone just told him or her

#### Individuals with LD need:

- To be identified as early as possible
- To have a comprehensive assessment

- To have an Individualized Education Plan (see info on IEP on next page)
- To secure qualified and knowledgeable educators who teach to the unique needs of people with learning disabilities
- To have modified curriculum and accommodations
- To pursue activities in areas where they have strengths/interests, to advocate for themselves at any age, to have vocational education and career training

#### Parents' role in the process:

- Need to help child to identify the nature of the learning disability,
- ❖ Acknowledge the problem that exists, and seek out appropriate accommodations by child's school
- ❖ Need to be knowledgeable about their child's disability and attempt to understand the challenges of living with LD
- Need to know the rights of individuals with learning disabilities as provided by law
- Need to advocate effectively for their children's needs and/or their own needs
- Need to be acquainted with professionals in the field of LD
- ❖ Need to become knowledgeable about different learning styles and work with school professionals to develop and enhance individual education plans for their children or themselves (see IEP info on the next page)
- Need to have children included in decisions, which will affect them on many levels for the present and for the future
- Need to learn to accept and value their children's or their own uniqueness.

Parents can be the most supportive by advocating for their children and being familiar with resources available in the community on a local level as well as on a national level, which will be most helpful for college and beyond. The bottom line is that kids need resources, support from family members, and buy in from school officials. They need accommodations and this will be made possible with less difficulty and more efficiently if a child has undergone educational testing to assess core problem areas.

In conclusion, it is important to encourage strengths, identify weaknesses, understand the system, work with professionals and learn about strategies for dealing with specific difficulties. In addition, it is also necessary to know how to provide a supportive environment both at school and in the home-especially with non LD children in the family, which is done in an effort to avoid making comparisons between children with different skills and abilities.

#### ADD: Attention Deficit Disorder

ADD is a neurobiological disorder, and research shows that symptoms of ADD are caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain. ADD interferes with one's ability to function normally in academic, work and social settings, and to their potential. Although ADD is not considered to be a learning disability, it is often linked to academic problems, as the related symptoms impact an individual's life to the extent that he or she is unable to function "normally" in the academic arena. Once the symptoms are recognized, the student will need certain accommodations in school to function in the classroom. It is important to keep in mind that ADD not only affects individuals in the school environment, but it also affects all other areas of one's life.

#### Symptoms of ADD:

People with ADD are commonly noted for their inconsistencies. Most often, these individuals have problems with:

- Following though on instructions
- ❖ Paying attention appropriately to what they need to attend to
- Seem to not listen and be disorganized
- Have poor handwriting
- Miss details
- Have trouble starting tasks or with tasks that require planning or longterm effort
- Some people with ADD can be fidgety, verbally impulsive, unable to wait their turn, and act on impulse regardless of consequences for their behavior
- Easily distracted or forgetful.

#### ADHD: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

Contrary to popular belief, ADHD is the same thing as ADD, but it has a different term. ADHD is a diagnosis applied to children and adults associated with biological factors, who consistently display certain characteristic behaviors over a period of time. In order to meet the criteria for an ADHD diagnosis, the behaviors must be excessive, long term and pervasive. The behaviors must appear before age 7 and continue for at least 6 months. A crucial consideration for this diagnosis is that the behaviors must create a real handicap in at least two areas of a person's life such as school, home, work, or social settings. Research shows that about 4%-6% of the American population has ADHD, it is not limited to children, and it most likely will persist throughout a person's lifetime. Similarly, one half to two thirds of children with ADHD will continue to have significant problems with ADHD symptoms and behaviors as adults, which impacts their lives on the job, within the family, and in social relationships.

#### Symptoms:

Similar to ADD, and learning disabilities in general, the exact nature and severity of ADHD symptoms varies from person to person:

- Distractibility, impulsivity, hyperactivity,
- Fails to give close attention to details/careless mistakes
- Difficulty sustaining attention to tasks
- Does not seem to listen when spoken to directly
- Fails to follow instructions carefully and completely
- Losing or forgetting important things
- Feeling restless
- Often fidgeting with hands or feet
- Talks excessively
- Blurts out answers before hearing the whole question
- Often has difficulty awaiting turn

### Important tools to get started: Know Your Rights!!

#### ADA: Americans with Disabilities Act

Enacted in 1990, this Act protects children and adults with disabilities from discrimination in employment, public, and privately operated settings. This law also applies to public schools, private schools and colleges. People of all ages with learning disabilities are protected against discrimination and they have a right to different types of assistance both in the school setting and out in the community.

#### IDEA: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

Enacted in 1997, this act provides Special Education and related services for children and individuals up to age 22. IDEA provides for a Free Appropriate public Education (FAPE) and an Individualized Education Program (IEP). People of all ages with learning disabilities are protected against discrimination and they have a right to different types of assistance both in the school setting and out in the community.

### IEP: Individualized Education Plan

IEP, is one of the services provided for children in the public school system. Among general disabilities, individuals with specific learning disabilities can qualify for IEP services, if they fall between the ages of 3-18, and sometimes it is extended to 22 years of age.

#### How does it work?

A parent, teacher, or school professional can request that a student be evaluated for special education services by writing a letter to the principal of the child's home school or the local Special Education Coordinator. All students must provide consent from their parents to receive IEP services. After the request is received, the school district has 15 days to develop an Assessment Plan. The assessment plan is developed and sent to parents who have up to 15 days to consent to the assessment. Once the district receives the consent, they have 50 calendar days to complete the assessment and schedule the IEP.

For More Information: Contact your home school or your local school district.

#### Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act:

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act guarantees students equal access to services from agencies that receive any federal funding. Each school district has at least one person who is designated as the 504 coordinator who is responsible for seeing that the student's needs are identified and that appropriate accommodations are offered thereafter. If services are recommended, the follow up procedure includes the development of a 504 plan. This process is similar to the IEP process, but it differs in that it is less structured, and no funding is attached to services listed in the plan.

#### What services are provided?

Reasonable accommodations for learning in the school setting: extra time for tests or assignments, moving the student to the front of the classroom to see the blackboard, reading test questions to a student, providing a quiet room for test taking,

Services are provided in the school, workplace, and community as deemed appropriate. Students with specific learning disabilities qualify for Section 504. School personnel or the parent can request determination for Section 504. Contact the 504 Coordinator or principal at the student's home school. Parents must provide consent for participation in Section 504.

For more information: Call Protection and Advocacy at 800-776-5746 or Team of Advocates for Special Kids at 714-533-8275

### DSPS: Disabled Student Programs and Services at colleges

Support services are available for all students with a verified temporary or permanent disability who are regularly enrolled in college. DSPS are located on every private and public community college, four year college and university campus. In order to participate, students are required to submit written documentation of their disability, they need to meet with a DSPS counselor, and an initial application process/assessment process of some sort will take place (each school has different requirements for participating in their accommodation program).

Students might be eligible for more than one service, depending on the nature of the disability. Disability verification must be provided when registering with the DSPS office. Students refer themselves to DSPS and often need to advocate for themselves. It is the hope that with prior experience and resources that this shouldn't be too difficult when entering the DSPS office. Different services are provided, such as: learning disability services, note taking, and alternative course assignments.

For more information: Contact your local community college, or postsecondary institution.

## Commonly Used Websites: General Information on LD, ADD, ADHD

Ability Magazine: www.abilitymagazine.com

Association of Educational therapists: www.aetonline.org

Attention Deficit Disorder Association: www.add.org

Attention Deficit Disorder Magazine: www.additudemag.org

The Council for Learning Disabilities: www.cldinternational.org

Coordinated Campaign for LD: www.aboutld.org

Council for Exceptional Children: www.dldcec.org

Council for Jewish with Special Needs: www.cjsn.org

Focus on Learning: www.focusonlearning.com

Learning disabilities Association of America: www.ldanatl.org

Learning disabilities and practical LD info: www.ldinfo.com

Learning disabilities online: www.ldonline.org

Learning disabilities national: www.ldanatl.org

National Attention Deficit Disorder Association: www.add.org

National Council for disabilities: www.njcd.org

National Center for learning disabilities: www.ncld.org

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities: www.nichey.org

One ADD Place: www.oneaddplace.com

Parent Advocacy Coalition for Ed. Rights: www.pacer.org

Schwab learning: www.schwablearning.org

## Community Agencies Where to find useful information:

## Local/National Listings:

ADA Information U.S. Department of Justice P.O. Box 66738 Washington, DC 20035-6738 202-514-0301/1-800-514-0301

ADHD Clinic-Cedars Sinai Medical Center 310-423-4297 Assessments, social skill training School visits and consultations, IEP

Advocates for Special kids 3109 Walnut Ave. Manhattan Beach, CA 90266 310-480-9310 www.advocatesforspecialkids.org

All Kinds of Minds
P.O. Box 3580
Chapel Hill, NC 27515
919-933-8082
AKOMinds@aol.com
www.AllKindsofMinds.org

Bridges...from school to work (Created by the Marriott Foundation) 3200 Wilshire Blvd. South Tower Suite 1207 Los Angeles, CA 90010 213-381-1220 ext. 162

California Department of Education 1430 N Street P.O. Box 944272 Sacramento, CA 94244-2720 916-319-0791 www.cde.ca.gov/ Council for Learning Disabilities PO Box 40303 Overland Park, KS 66204 913-492-2546 www.cldinternational.org

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund 22162 6th Street
Berkeley, CA 94710-2219
510-644-2555
dredf@dredf.org
www.dredf.org

Educational Testing Service Rosedale Road Princeton, NJ 08541 609-921-9000 etsinfo@ets.org www.ets.org/disability.html

The H.E.L.P. Group
13130 Burbank Blvd
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401
818-779-5218
Comprehensive educational programs
(Children w/ special needs: learning & language disabilities, autism)

Kitty Petty ADD/LD Institute 410 Sheridan Avenue Unit #339 Palo Alto, CA 94306-2020 650-329-9443 www.kpinst.org/

Learning Disabilities Association of America 4156 Library Road Pittsburgh, PA 15234 1-888-300-6710 ldanatl@usaor.net

Learning Disabilities Association of California P.O. Box 276645 Sacramento, CA 95827 1-800-203-7542 Learning Disabilities Association LA chapter 37 N. Auburn Suite #3 Sierra Madre, CA 91024

Marriott Foundation for People with Disabilities One Marriott Drive Washington, DC 20058 301-380-7771 www.marriottfoundation.org

National Center for Learning Disabilities Foundation 381 Park Ave S Suite #1401 888-575-7373 Information and referral for: People with LD, Legislative action, Advocacy, Public Education

National Information Center for Children & Youth with Disabilities Academy for Educational Development P.O. Box 1492
Washington, DC 20013-1492
1-800-695-0285
nichcy@aed.org
www.nichcy.org

Next Step Learning Center 222 Curtis St. Oakland, CA 94607 510-251-1731 www.nextsteplc.org

Office of Special Education Programs
U.S. Department of Education
330 C Street S.W.
Mary E. Switzer Building
Washington, DC 20202
202-205-5507
www.ed.gov.offices/OSERS/OSEP/index.html

Schwab Learning 1650 South Amphlett Blvd. Suite #300 San Mateo, CA. 94402 1-800-230-0988 webmaster@Schwablearning.org

Special Education Division California Dept. of Education 428 J Street 5<sup>th</sup> floor Sacramento, CA 9244-2720 916-445-4613 www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed

TALC (The Advocacy & Learning Center) Outreach Resource to help/support 3941 Park Drive #20 PMB114 El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 ourORHSkids@yahoo.com Fax: 916-339-2475

Vista Del Mar: Child & Family Services 3200 Motor Ave Los Angeles, CA 90034 310-836-1223/888-22-VISTA FAX (310) 204-4134 www.vistadelmar.org \*LD assessments

- \*Attention deficit evaluations
- \*Psychological testing
- \*Neuro-feedback program
- \*Family Therapy Program

## Jewish Agencies Where to find useful information

## Local and National Listings:

Agency Jewish Education Special Education San Diego, CA www.ajesd.org

Aurebach Central Agency for Jewish Education Special Needs 215-635-8940 ext. 1231 www.acaje.org

CAJE: Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education 261 W35th St, Fl 12A
New York, NY 10001
Phone: 212-268-4210
cajeny@caje.org
www.caje.org

CJSN
Council for Jews with special needs
www.cjsn.org

Etta Israel center
8846 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90035
310-285-0909
infor@etta.org
www.etta.org
\*Customized/individualized services
for children with LD and their families

JEFA: Jewish Education for all Irvine, CA 92612 415-733-3973 jefa1@hotmail.com www.jefa.org JESNA
Consortium of Special Needs Educators
111 8th Avenue
New York, NY 10011
212-284-6950
www.jesna.org

National Jewish Council for Disabilities Hotline #: 1-800-493-8990 www.njcd.org

PTach 1428 36th Street Brooklyn, New York, 11218 718-854-8600 Fax: 718-436-0357 info@ptach.org

URJ Department of Jewish Education www.uahc.org

# Community Schools Who offer support services for the LD population

Eras Center-Special Needs School Culver City: 310-737-9393 Westview: 310-478-5544 (Grades K-12) Some programs for ages 3-22

The Frostig School 971 Altadena Dr. Pasadena, CA 91107 818-791-1255 (Grades 1-12)

Julia Ann Singer Therapeutic School 3321 Edith Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90064 310-202-0669 Ages 3-8

Landmark West School 5461 Louise Ave. Encino, CA 91316 818-986-5045 www.westmarkschool.org (Grades K-12)

Park Century School 2040 Stoner Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90025 310-478-5065 www.parkcenturyschool.org Ages7-14

Summit View School Valley Glen 6455 Coldwater Canyon Valley Glen, CA 91606 818-623-6300 www.summitview.org Summit View School Culver City 12101 W. Washington Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90066 310-751-1101 www.summitview.org (Grades K-12)

# Jewish Day Schools Support services for students with LD

Abraham Joshua Heschel Day School 17701 Devonshire Street Northridge, CA 91325 818-368-5781 www.heschel.com (GradesK-8)

Adat Ari El Day School 12020 Burbank Blvd. North Hollywood, CA 91607 818-766-4992 www.adatariel.org (Grades K-6)

Etta Israel Center
School Program: Schools Attuned
8846 West Pico Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90035
310-285-0909
infor@etta.org
www.etta.org
\*Customized/individualized services
for children with LD and their families

Maimonades Academy 310 No. Huntley Drive Los Angeles, CA 90048 310-659-2456 (Grades K-12)

Pressman Academy 1055 So. La Cienega Blvd. Los Angeles. CA 90035 310-652-2002 www.pressmanacademy.org (Grades K-8) Sinai Akiba Academy 10400 Wilshire Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90024 310-475-6401 www.sinaiakiba.org (Grades K-8)

Temple Emanuel Community Day School 8844 Burton Way Beverly Hills, CA 90211 310-288-3737

Stephen S. Wise Temple Day Schools 15500 Stephen S. Wise Drive Los Angeles, CA 90077 310-476-8561 (Grades K-6)

Valley Beth Shalom Day School Moreshet Hebrew School 15739 Ventura Blvd. Encino, CA 91436 818-788-3584 (Grades K-6)

# Community Support Groups Local and National Listings

CH.A.D.D.: Children & Adults with ADD National Organization 8181 Professional Place, Suite 150, Landover, MD 20785 Resource Center: 1-800-233-4050 Business: 301-306-7070 www.chadd.org

\*\* Local chapters In California: San Fernando Valley, Los Angeles, Conejo, San Gabriel Valley

The H.E.L.P. Group
13130 Burbank Blvd
Sherman Oaks, CA 91401
818-779-5218
www.hood.edu/seri/serihome/htm
Comprehensive educational programs
for children & adolescents with special needs:
LD & Autism
Special Education Resources on the Internet

Keep Kids Learning www.keepkidslearning.org important information related to education opportunities for making a difference

Learning Disabilities Association of California PO Box 601067 Sacramento, CA 95860 866-532-6322 For Children & Adults with LD Purpose is to support the education & general welfare of children and adults

Support for Families of Children with Disabilities 2601 Mission Street
Suite 606
San Francisco, CA 94110
415-469-4518
www.supportforfamilies.org

Roads to Learning www.ala.org/roads

Smart Kids with LD www.smartkidswithld.org

TASK
714-533-8275
Parent info & training
Center for parents of kids with disabilities
workshop in IEP Process
Tech assessments

## **Jewish Support Groups**

AJE
Agency Jewish Education
www.ajesd.org
San Diego, CA
Special Ed

BJE: Bureau of Jewish Education 6505 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 710 Los Angeles, CA 90048 213-852-7749 Contact: Dr. Kenneth Schaefler Warm Line

CJSN Council for Jewish with Special Needs www.cjsn.org

JEFA
Jewish Education for all
Ms. Linda Shoham
Irvine, CA 92612
415-733-3973
www.jefa.org
jefa1@hotmail.com

Jewish Association for ADD Located in New York

NJCD National Jewish Council for Disabilities Hotline #: 1-800-493-8990 www.njcd.org

### Resources and Books to consider

All Kinds of Minds, Mel Levine, Educators Publishing Service, Inc., Cambridge MA (800)225-5750

Attention deficit disorder and the law: a guide for advocates, PS Latham and PS Latham, 1992, Washington DC, JKL Communications

The ADD Book, William Sears and Lynda Thompson

Attention deficit disorder clinical workbook, Barkley, R.A., 1990, New York: The Guilford Press

ADHD: The great misdiagnosis

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder: a handbook for diagnosis and treatment. New York: The Guilford Press, 1990

<u>Developmental variation and learning disorders</u>, Mel Levine, 1987, Cambridge MA Educators Publishing Service

<u>Driven to distraction: recognizing and coping with attention deficit disorder from childhood through adulthood</u>, 1994 EM Hallowell and JJ Ratey, New York: Pantheon Books

How to reach and teach teenagers with ADHD, Grad L. Flick 2000

<u>Keeping a head in school</u>, Mel Levine, 1990, Educators Publishing Service, Inc.

<u>Learning disabilities and the law</u>, PS Latham and PH Latham, 1993, Washington DC, JKL Communications

<u>Learning Outside the Lines: Two Ivy League......</u>, Jon Mooney & David Cole

<u>Learning to Learn</u>, Carolyn Oliver and Rosemary F. Bowler, Simon & Schuster, Inc.

The misunderstood Child: Understanding and coping with the misunderstood child...3rd Ed., Larry B. Silver, 1998

The month to month me (an activity book for children) The learning works, Linda Schwartz, P.O. Box 6187, Santa Barbara, CA 93160 (1-800-235-5767)

Putting on the brakes: young people's guide to understanding attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, PO Quinn, J Stern, 1991 Magination Press.

Teaching Teens with ADD/ADHD, Chris A. Ziegler.

Their World, The National Center for Learning Disabilities

What's Wrong with me? Learning Disabilities at Home and School Regina Cicci, York Press, Inc.

When Learning is Tough, Cynthia Roby, Albert Whitman & Co, 800-255-7675

When your Child Has LD: A Survival Guide for Parents, Gary Fisher, Free Spirit Publishing, 800-735-7323

When you worry about the child you love, EM Hallowell, 1996, New York: Simon & Schuster.

Windows into the ADD mind, Amen, D.G. Fairfield, California Mindworks Press 1995.

You and your ADD Child: How to understand and help children with Attention Deficit Disorder. Paul Warren.

Article: www.bjela.org/content\_display.html

Article id: 82836#Jewish

### **Additional Tips**

- \*Start the process early!
- \*It is important not to over-pathologize children, but it is important to get proper support from the schools, teachers, and the community in order to advocate for your child
- \*Empower children to understand their rights so that they can advocate for their needs in school
- \*Learn about the effects and long term effects of using medication for individuals with ADD/ADHD: they might be helpful in the short term and might seem like the most appropriate solution, but educate yourself and others around you by speaking to doctors and other professionals in the field of Special Needs and Learning Disabilities.

#### Conclusion

To quote the famous Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Life is a succession of lessons which must be lived to be understood." These words are significantly related to my educational experiences thus far, and they are the epitome of my master's project. Even though I struggled with learning difficulties through the years, I would not be where I am today without the process I endured. In conclusion, I would like to add that I am very appreciative of the individuals and resources that I utilized which have enabled me to reach a point of success and pride in my life.

## Sources used for Master's Project

- \*Rainbow Resource Directory 2003
- \*Professionals at Bureau of Jewish Education, Los Angeles
- \*Council for Jews with Special Needs
- \*Internet sources on LD
- \*Debbie Litberg: USC Colleague
- \*BJE Resource Guide
- \*Resources (schools/programs for kids)
- \*Professionals from Public Counsel