

ND 101: Learners of Concern- What should trigger concern?

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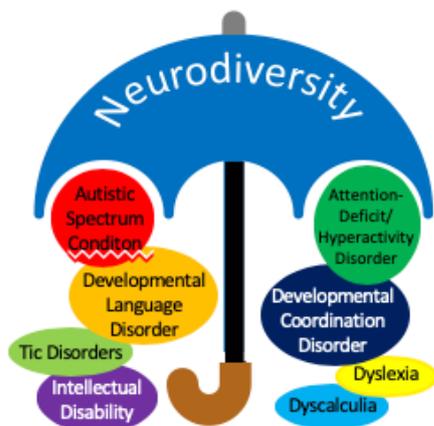
Identifying 'Learners of concern'?

Around 1 in 8 children in every classroom have additional learning needs (ALN) sometimes also called specific learning difficulties (SpLD) or special educational needs (SEN).

While it is not effective to screen all children in every classroom, some children trigger concern in parents, teachers and themselves and can remain unidentified or misidentified.

'Learners of concern' may include:

- **Female learners**- who may be withdrawn and not reaching their capacity but have learning difficulties such as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who can be less well identified.
- **Learners from lower socio-economic groups**- whose parents may be more reticent to voice their child's difficulties or not recognise their child as needing support as they have had similar difficulties themselves in the past.
- **Looked After Children and Young People**- who may have moved from school to school and missed out on routine screening and have a higher risk of SEN.



What is Neurodiversity?

The term neurodiversity respects and recognises the cognitive differences some learners have and moves away from a disorder/impairment model.

Key:

- Learners with one 'label' often have others as well that may not be diagnosed
- Mental wellbeing challenges often co-occur
- Behavioural presentations are often a 'cry for help' and never a diagnosis

- **Those 'at risk' of exclusion or having been excluded**- who may have higher rates of ADHD/Dyslexia/ASD than the general school population).
- **Learners who were premature**- who also have a higher rate of learning difficulties.
- **Learners with developmental language disorders**- who may present with frustration, anger, or withdrawal and be misidentified.
- **Learners identified as having one learning difficulty but other aspects have been missed**- all learning difficulties overlap often.
- **Learners with English as an additional language**- may have learning difficulties that are not considered.
- **A child whose parents or a teacher is worried about them**- it is not always possible to pin point the 'what' but there is usually an underlying reason for this.
- **A child with a family history of developmental delay/disorder** or who has been identified or identifies as having cognitive differences.
- **A child who has had 'Adverse Childhood Experiences'**¹

If you are a school /academy or authority and want more help in identifying and supporting learners of concern contact info@doitprofiler.com to start a conversation.