

Book Review

***Different Learners: Identifying, Preventing, and Treating  
Your Child's Learning Problems***

by Jane M. Healy

Published by Simon & Schuster, 2011

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"My first educational therapy session with Edward took place before he was born." This is the first sentence in *Different Learners: Identifying, Preventing, and Treating Your Child's Learning Problems* by Jane M. Healy, an educational psychologist and author of *Your Child's Growing Mind, Endangered Minds, Failure to Connect,* and *How to Have Intelligent and Creative Conversations with Your Kids*. *Different Learners* is a parents' guidebook to learning differences and the practical and positive steps to avoid or undo problems associated with a child's diagnosis. Healy defines a learning problems as "any innate or acquired characteristic that consistently interferes with one or more aspects of learning," and explains that the way a brain is "wired" is responsible for disorders in language arts and math, social and personal organizational skills, and motor and sensory abilities. Whether a developmental miswiring becomes a disability (with or without pharmacological intervention) depends on its severity as well as expectations placed on a child at a given age. Healy gives the reader a hands on guide with recounted case studies, the latest brain science research data made comprehensible, and a myriad of checklists including symptoms, action steps, and advice. The book is divided into three parts; the first part focuses on the problems and possibilities for "dys-ed" children; the second part presents the scientific how-and-why of juvenile brain function, the role of genetics, intelligence and learning styles; the third offers definitive techniques and remedies for de-stressing children and their environments by limiting distracting or disruptive lifestyle factors. Healy makes an overwhelming topic user friendly, providing parents with a welcome ready reference. (Healy lists the Association of Educational Therapists (AET) as a useful organization in the Appendix.)

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