

How A Child with A Learning Disability Can Qualify For Social Security Disability Benefits

If your child has a learning disability that causes certain severe or extreme functional limitations, and those limitations are expected to last 12 months or longer, your child may qualify for disability benefits administered by the [Social Security Administration \(SSA\)](#). For a child to be approved for Supplemental Security Income ([SSI](#)), which is a needs-based disability program, specific medical and financial criteria must be met.

Meeting the Medical Criteria

The medical guide, which is called the Blue Book, has sections for different body systems. Each section has multiple listings for disabling criteria that may apply to that bodily system. The listing that applies to children with learning disabilities is referred to as neurodevelopmental disorders and is [Listing 112.11](#). This listing applies to dyscalculia, dyslexia, and other learning difficulties. Using this listing, a child must exhibit significant difficulties in their ability to learn and using academic skills, and must either be extremely limited in one of the following areas, or have severely limited functioning in two of the following areas:

- Understanding, remembering, or applying information
- Interacting with others
- Concentrating on tasks and maintaining pace
- Managing oneself such as protecting yourself from harm, regulating emotions, controlling behaviors, and maintaining personal hygiene

While many children who have severe learning disabilities that show severe learning and understanding, those children with an IQ higher than 70 will not show extreme limitations in those areas. Many children with learning disabilities will not have a severe limitation in a second area, such as managing oneself, concentration, or socially, so meeting the listing could be challenging.

Required documentation is essential to the success of a disability claim for a child with a learning disability. You will need to provide [supporting documentation](#) confirming the diagnosis of the learning disability and how the child's functioning is impaired in the previously mentioned areas. School records and statements from educators are helpful in providing the needed documentation in such cases.

Using A Medical Vocational Allowance

If a child's condition is disabling, but doesn't meet the specific criteria of a listing, the child may qualify using a medical vocational allowance. This approach includes a [residual functional capacity \(RFC\)](#) being completed to give a clear detail of what the child can and cannot do. This will show all restrictions and limitations. That way, the disability examiner will be able to review the RFC and all other supporting evidence

to determine the severity of the child's learning disability and how it affects his or her daily life.

Applying for Disability Benefits

If your child has a learning disability and it causes severe limitations, you may want to start the disability application. You can do so by calling the SSA at 1-800-772-1213 and speaking with a representative or by scheduling an appointment at one of the [SSA field offices](#) across the country. After the initial application process is completed, you should hear back from the SSA within three to five months.

Resources Found Via:

- <https://www.ssa.gov>
- <https://www.ssa.gov/ssi/>
- https://www.ssa.gov/disability/professionals/bluebook/112.00-MentalDisorders-Childhood.htm#112_11
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/glossary/social-security-disability-medical-sources>
- <https://www.disability-benefits-help.org/faq/residual-functional-capacity>
- <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>