

ABOUT LEARNING

Every parent has an individual learning style and will learn best when a program is tailored to their needs.



Parents with a learning disability will best achieve their goals by learning and practising in the environment where the skill will be used.



Parents with a learning disability can be assisted to learn by breaking down tasks into steps, the use of visual aids, role play, role modelling and being given the opportunity for practice and repetition.



By preparing this pamphlet we hope to dispel some of the myths surrounding the abilities of parents with a learning disability.

Mt Druitt Learning Hub Healthy Start

Each Healthy start hub consists of a group of professionals who are working with parents who have a learning disability.

PLEASE VISIT

www.healthystart.net.au

Acknowledgments:

Espe-Sherwindt and Crable
(1993)

Parents with Mental Retardation:
Moving Beyond the Myths
Healthy Start Initiative

Parenting with a Learning Disability



Breaking Down the Myths

MYTH

Children born to a parent with a learning disability will also have a disability

FACT

Overall the research shows that at least half the children of parents with learning difficulties will not experience delays in their development.

MYTH

Parents with a learning disability have lots of children.

FACT

Parents with an intellectual disability tend to have fewer or the same number of children as parents within the same socioeconomic status.



MYTH

Children born to parents with a learning disability often end up being the adults in the relationship.

FACT

Children do not become adults in any relationship. It is true however that some children may take on additional roles not usually taken on by children, such as helping their parents fill in forms and reading for them.

MYTH

Parents with a learning disability will abuse or neglect their children.

FACT

There is no evidence to support this. A parents' ability to provide adequately and protect their children from harm will be influenced by factors such as upbringing, personality, physical and mental health, life experiences, and socio-economic pressures as is the case for all parents.

