STOWELL Learning Center

FREE RESOURCE
FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

Educational Characteristics of Retained Reflexes

What each retained reflex can look like at school

Moro: Easily distracted; difficulty focusing on details; difficulty copying from board; has allergies and chronic upper respiratory illnesses. Panic attacks; mood swings; anxiety; fearfulness. Unexpected changes in behavior; aggressive outbursts.

Fear Paralysis: Reacting rather than responding in the classroom; gives up easily; overly dependent; acts "invisible"; has fixed classroom routines; expressive language disorders.

Spinal Galant: Difficulty with fine motor skills (handwriting); dislike of physical education due to coordination difficulties; making noise to relieve pent-up energy; prefers to do homework or watch TV on floor; ADHD or ADD; speech disorders or spelling difficulties; auditory processing issues; poor concentration and short term memory.

Crossed Leg Extensor: Delay in development of all higher-level cognitive skills; challenges w/handwriting; challenges w/fine motor skills (buttoning shirt, tying shoes); Dyscalculia (math difficulties) especially story problems and times tables; Dyslexia, especially phonemic awareness; concrete thinking (very black & white); challenges in speed of perception and processing.

Spinal Perez: ADD/ADHD, hyperactivity, focus and concentration; speech disorder, difficulty expressing known information.

Babinski: Poor gross motor skills and coordination; abnormal gait; inability to run & walk quickly; cramps in legs & feet; dislike of wearing shoes.

Asymmetrical Tonic Neck Reflex (ATNR): High distractibility; delayed long distance and binocular vision (causes print to jump around); omission of letters, words, or whole lines; reversal of letters & numbers; difficulty crossing midline; hard to read small print; spelling & grammar difficulties; Dyslexia (reading comprehension); impaired handwriting; tight grip on pencil; writing at angle across page; persistence in drawing a circle clockwise and with 8s; dysgraphia; dyscalculia; dominant hand/eye/leg/ear not established; difficulty in following multiple instructions; poor memory.

Bauer Crawling: The usage of one hemisphere of the brain at a time, preventing whole brain coordination; dyslexia, dysgraphia, impulse control and violence; lack of self-esteem to motor, cognitive, and emotional challenges; ADD/ADHD.

Babkin Palmomental: Clenched fists indication of tension; nail biting; difficulty with fine and gross motor skills; involuntary movements of mouth and tongue while reading.

Hands Grasping: Speech disorders; stuttering; moving mouth while writing or drawing; involuntary hand movements when speaking; holds pencil too tight; shoulder tension; difficulty expressing ideas on paper due to excessive focus on handwriting.

Stepping: Slow processing skills; dyslexia; unable to think in abstract terms, less creative.

Hands Pulling: Stuck in "Flight or Fight;" poor gross motor skills, difficulties with spelling and speech; repetitive stimming behaviors (waving; flapping hands; humming; rocking); ADD/ADHD; Autism.

Hand Supporting: Speech disorders, poor handwriting; difficulty taking in new information; Dyscalculia.

Landau: Procrastination; difficulty being assertive; transitioning from one activity to another; habitual lateness; breaking commitments; self-denial (won't ask for help or becomes resentful); depression or lack of emotion; inability to concentrate on details or process new information; poor organizational skills.

Symmetrical Tonic Neck Reflex (STNR): Wrapping legs around chair legs, or sitting on one's legs; may sit in W position; poor impulse control; poor attention and concentration; difficulty changing focus from near to far and vertical eye tracking; reading difficulties, especially while seated; poor handwriting; poor short term memory; fidgeting; poor attention to work; wandering around the classroom.

Tonic Labyrinthine Reflex: Difficulty with auditory processing (verbal directions); difficulty blocking out irrelevant signals; ADD/ADHD; reading difficulty (comprehension and letter reversals); cross-eyed tendency; difficulty copying from board; losing track of time; disorganized and forgetful; poor short-term memory; poor sequencing skills (ordering speech, spelling; composition & building of concepts); poor alignment skills (math columns); poor language skills; speech disorders; general lack of alertness.

Head Righting: Balance difficulties; clumsiness in gross and fine motor skills; inability to filter out irrelevant visual stimuli; self-control and dependency issues; feelings of isolation; reading and handwriting challenges; speech disorders; challenges with cognitive function including concentration; challenges with short or long term memory due to visual and auditory issues.

Wondering about retained reflexes?

Talk with a learning specialist. Testing and programs are available in person or remotely, for children, teens, and adults.

Schedule a Free Call

(877) 774-0444

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