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**Reading Disability and Phonemic Awareness**

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**Objective:** Two studies were conducted to determine if Down’s Syndrome (DS) children with adequate reading ability had phonemic awareness and to determine if learning disabled children could be found who had adequate reading but poor phonemic awareness or poor reading and adequate phonemic awareness.

**Methods:** Study1- 3 groups of five children, ages 8-15. Groups 1 and 2 were DS children with and without adequate reading skills. Group 3 was composed of normal controls, whose reading level was matched with the DS adequate readers. Subjects received 5 measures of phonemic awareness and 2 of reading decoding skills. Study2- Case records were examined of children of average IQ referred for school problems to find children whose reading level was average but whose phonemic awareness was below average and children whose phonemic awareness was average but whose reading level was below average.

**Results:** Study1- Adequate reading DS children were able to decode phonetic nonsense words as well as the normal children despite lack of phonemic awareness. Study2- 4 children met were reading disabled with intact phonemic awareness and four were average readers with deficient phonemic awareness.

**Conclusion:** Children with Down’s Syndrome may read adequately without evidence of phonemic awareness. Some normal children read adequately without fully developed phonological awareness and some poor readers have adequate phonemic awareness.

**Keywords:** ADHD, EDUC, LD