



THE NEUROFIBROMATOSIS  
ASSOCIATION

**EXAMPLES OF THE PROBLEMS  
EXPERIENCED BY SOME CHILDREN WITH NF1  
AND LEARNING DIFFICULTIES**

<p><b>ORGANISATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Untidiness</li><li>• Can't remember where to find things</li><li>• Poor planning</li><li>• Poor time management — e.g. when had last meal</li></ul>	<p><b>MEMORY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remembers things from years ago but not from yesterday</li><li>• Forgets home work</li><li>• Unable to remember something which has been learnt</li></ul>
<p><b>READING, WRITING AND CALCULATING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inaccurate copying</li><li>• Immature drawing</li><li>• Confuses figures</li><li>• Poor tracking left to right</li><li>• Difficulty in organising position and shape of what is seen</li><li>• Reverses or rotates letters, words, numbers</li><li>• Difficulty in forming letters, staying on lines — writing 'all over the place'</li></ul>	<p><b>PROCESSING DIFFICULTIES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Problems making sense of information,</li><li>• Problems understanding and using time</li><li>• Problems coping with change</li><li>• Messages becoming confused</li></ul> <p><b>CO-ORDINATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bumps into things — accident prone</li><li>• Kicks things over</li><li>• Trips over own feet/the kerb</li><li>• Awkwardness in riding a bike, swimming, running, catching a ball</li><li>• Difficulty in holding a book, pen, scissors, tying shoelaces</li></ul>
<p><b>SOCIAL &amp; BEHAVIOURAL CHARACTERISTICS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Immature behaviour</li><li>• Interrupts inappropriately — pesters, becomes intrusive</li><li>• Stands too close</li><li>• Anxiety or over-excitement by change or new experiences</li><li>• Misinterprets facial expression, gestures, tone of voice, body language</li><li>• Feels more comfortable with younger children and adults</li><li>• Difficulty in making and maintaining friendships</li></ul>	<p><b>CONCENTRATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Easily distracted</li><li>• Short attention span</li><li>• Impulsive</li><li>• Disruptive</li><li>• Overactive</li><li>• Apparent non-cooperation</li><li>• Appears lazy</li><li>• Slow to settle and start a task</li></ul>

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For more information and a full list of publications please contact:

The Neurofibromatosis Association

Tel: 020 8439 1234

website: [www.nfauk.org](http://www.nfauk.org)

Quayside House, 38 High Street

Fax: 020 8439 1200

e-mail: [nfa@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:nfa@zetnet.co.uk)

Kingston on Thames, Surrey KT1 1HL

Mon — Fri 9am — 5 pm

National Telephone Helpline : 0845 602 4173

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