

## SLD Identification

As per the RPwD Act, diagnosis of SLDs can happen only in or after third grade or 8 years of age, whichever is earlier. Diagnosis of SLDs requires either:

A Pediatrician

A Psychiatrist

A Pediatric Neurologist

Clinical or Rehabilitation Psychologist

**Diagnosis for SLDs is a 3-Step process:**

Step 1

## **Assessment**

Assessment to eliminate any visual or hearing impairments.

Step 2

## **IQ Assessment**

IQ Assessment by Child psychologist/ Clinical psychologist/ Pediatric neurologist/ psychiatrist only if the IQ is determined to be average or above (>85), then Step 3 will be applied.

Step 3

## **SLD Assessment**

SLD Assessment involves application of specific psychometric tests for diagnosing SLD and giving it a severity scale.

**Once a benchmarked (40% or more) disability diagnosis is confirmed, a disability certificate and UDID card<sup>6</sup> can be issued by the competent authority. The disability certificate is needed to access any facilities, benefits, or concessions available under the government schemes for persons with disabilities.**

## **Screening**

While a formal diagnosis can be done only after 8 years, a screening process can be undertaken for early identification of a child at risk of SLD. The process is much like taking a child to get their eyes tested for poor vision after regular complaints of a headache.

As part of the screening process, one must assess not just academic performance, but also the impact on daily life and emotional well-being. The screening must be done in the primary language of the student. You may have students who are unidentified and struggling. If you think a student may be at risk, talk to them and take initiative with screening/diagnosis.

