

# Psychological characteristics of left-handed children

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**Abstract:** Mental characteristics of left-handers. Left-handed children have their own psychological characteristics, but they are simply the result of a peculiar functioning of the brain. Usually, such babies are more sensitive, excitable, impressionable, and are not always able to control their own emotions, which leads to instability and mood swings.

**Keywords:** Left-handed, right-handed, right hemisphere, child, children, people, adaptation, creative thinking.

**Introduction:** Left—handed children - why they act like that and what psychological characteristics do they have in comparison with right-handed people?

In fact, these are the same children who have a good reason for the appearance of such a vivid and sometimes disturbing feature.

It is not easy for them to adapt independently in the modern world, created for right—handers, so the task of adults is to help kids in this at the initial stage of life.

## WHO ARE LEFTIES?

The most important thing that parents of unusual children should understand is that they gave life to a special child and this is their great luck! A lefty is an emotional, trusting, sincere person who has developed creative abilities at the genetic level. Kids show a desire to get to know the world of creativity from an early age.

It is generally accepted that left—handedness is a normal phenomenon.

The main thing is timely diagnosis, because before the age of five, children have obvious signs of left—handedness that are not pronounced enough.

From a year to a year and a half, an ordinary healthy child does not pay attention to which hand is leading him when he picks up a spoon, cup or toy. Meanwhile, if you measure their strength indicators, then right-handers will have higher strength in their right hand than in their left. If you do not focus the baby's attention on which hand he eats, draws, and plays with, then it may well turn out that when the baby grows up, he will be able to control both his left and right hands with equal success.

It is important to understand that left—handedness is by no means a pathology or a deviation from the norm. This means that left-handed children do not need to be retrained to use their right hand. It was noted that toddlers who had been trying to retrain since childhood quickly got tired, lost their appetite, suffered headaches and sleep disorders, and in some cases even stuttered. All this indicates that such measures were a serious stress for the child and his consciousness actively resisted them.

## Mental characteristics of left-handers

Left-handed children have their own psychological characteristics, but they are simply the result of a peculiar functioning of the brain. Usually, such babies are more sensitive, excitable, impressionable, and are not always able to control their own emotions, which leads to instability and mood swings.

It is very possible that a lefty will start talking a little later than his peers, in addition, up to a certain age he will have difficulty identifying the right and left sides. Such children may have certain difficulties in the classroom, which will be discussed in more detail below. In some cases, left-handed children give the impression of being slow and slow-thinking.

Does all this mean that the kid is destined for the fate of a student and a person with average success? Of course not. Even experiencing temporary learning difficulties, the child will very soon learn to cope with them, adapt to society and prove himself to be quite a successful and promising personality. To do this, however, he will have to work hard.

Along with some of their features, kids with a leading left hand have an extraordinary imagination, well-developed imaginative thinking, clearly expressed preferences, and artistic abilities. Usually left-handed children are calm about the material side of life and pay more attention to its creative side. Such a kid will never let the people around him get bored!

Does lefty need help?

Of course, children who mostly use their left hand as a guide have some psychological characteristics and need adult's help, at least during their formation as individuals and at the beginning of their studies.

It will be very important to choose equipment specially adapted for lefties: a desk, writing and drawing supplies.

In addition, you will need to talk with the child about the fact that the left hand instead of the right as the leading one is not a disability, but just a feature that can even be useful in life.

A child should understand that he is no worse than other children, and in some ways even surpasses them. As a confirmation of their words, grown-up children can cite examples of famous personalities who were also left-handed, while achieving worldwide recognition. These are Alexander Pushkin, Albert Einstein, Michael Jackson and many others. The Internet can help you – you can probably find famous lefties in any field of activity, and if you give such examples from the field of interests of a child, this will become an additional motivator for his development.

Causes of left-handedness

The reasons why children become left-handed are very different. Most often it is:

- genetic predisposition;
- lesions of the left hemisphere;
- forced or intentional left-handedness.

So, the most common reason is still heredity. To date, the principles of transmission of left-handedness are not yet known, but we can say for sure that in families where at least one parent is left-handed, left-handed children are born most often. In the vast majority of cases, genetic left-handers do not have any developmental disorders, they develop in the same way as all other children, and differ from them only in this feature.

The so-called compensatory left-handedness is directly related to brain damage, most often in the left hemisphere. Since it is the left hemisphere that is responsible for the work of the right bow, in case of damage in its area, the functions inherent in it can take over the right hemisphere.

As a result, children become left-handed, first in the process of performing household activities, and then during learning (drawing, writing, etc.). In such children, one can often observe deviations in the development of speech and motor skills. But left-handedness in this case is not their cause or consequence, these deviations are the result of malfunctions in certain areas of the brain.

The third type of left-handedness in right-handed children from birth is caused by trauma or the desire to adopt left-handedness from friends or relatives.

And another variant of left-handedness is with the prefix "pseudo". By the age of five, children already have the dominance of one of the two hemispheres of the brain. At the same time, some babies have such a feature of the brain that causes atypia of mental development, which becomes an obstacle to the formation of interhemispheric interaction. Most often, such children use both hands equally well.

The lack of interhemispheric interaction is the only reason that cannot directly affect the development of left-handedness. Therefore, with its timely diagnosis, it will be possible to work with the child on the development of right-handedness.

In addition, it can be noted that a child can become left-handed not on a physical level, but on a psychological level - a "hidden lefty": when a child has all the signs of a lefty, while his right hand remains the main one. In such people, the right hemisphere is dominant.

Comparative characteristics of left-handers and right-handers

Today, there are several main opinions about the abilities possessed by left-handed children compared to right-handed ones. One of the opinions is based on the fact that the neuropsychiatric activity of left-handers is significantly worse than that of right-handers. Another view is that the abilities of children with dominant right and left hands do not differ for the worse or for the better.

There is a third opinion. According to him, left-handed children have high rates of neuropsychiatric activity compared to right-handed children and are capable of accelerated adaptation to the conditions of the outside world. Historical figures confirming this belief are Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, Leonardo da Vinci and others.

All three opinions about the characteristics of left-handed children have a right to exist, and they all correspond to the main concepts of the appearance of left-handedness, complementing each other.

It is believed that the connections between the

hemispheres of the brain in left-handers are not as strong as in right-handers, so perhaps they are more active in creativity, because their thinking is not limited by rigid limits.

The other side of the coin is the delayed formation of basic skills that require active interaction between the two hemispheres of the brain.

Left-handed children show an increased number of psychophysiological characteristics, and this is a proven fact. In addition, it is worth talking about the ability of children with a dominant left or right hand to react to odors. For example, left-handers are able to assess unpleasant odors with maximum accuracy. Right-handed people remain more sensitive to pleasant smells and positive emotions.

Thus, left-handers tend to be pessimistic, while right-handers tend to remain optimistic.

Teaching left-handed children at school: the main problems

Psychologists claim that children with a dominant left hand have certain difficulties in the learning process at school, at least more than right-handed children. Left-handers most often face problems in learning to read, write, and count - skills that require full visual perception. Certain disorders of this perception, along with disorders of visual-motor coordination and visual memory, lead to the formation of such problems:

slow perception and memorization of letters in the process of learning to read;

the formation of a visual image of numbers and letters with confusion regarding elements that are similar in configuration;

confusion of similar shaped geometric shapes;

unstable handwriting;

writing letters in a mirror image;

slow-motion writing.

As a separate point, it is worth considering one of the main problems of teaching a left-handed child at school: his retraining. As noted above, this process negatively affects the overall mental and physical condition of the baby.

Parents should step in if retraining takes place in the case of their child who has entered school, and explain to the teacher that it's not just about the left leading hand, but also about the functioning of the cerebral hemispheres.

Intentional retraining can cause speech disorders and emotional depression of the child. The statistics are disappointing, confirming the fact that every third student with a stutter is a left-handed person who

was retrained at the time.

Left-handed children often suffer from neurosis, and this issue continues to be deeply studied to this day.

Kids really exhaust themselves with permanent school fears (fear of being judged by classmates, teachers), but only in cases when parents show increased anxiety about their left-handedness.

How can we help left-handed children adapt?

From all of the above, we can conclude that it is unnatural to change what is inherent in nature, so the right decision is to help left-handed children adapt to the conditions of the world around them.

Methods of teaching left-handed people to write and read have not yet been developed in the CIS countries, at least in public schools. There are no such methods in the lessons of labor and art. That is why left-handed children have no other option but to adapt to the right-handed world. To make this task easier for them, adults can:

help to organize a workplace for the child so that the light falls on the right;

not to focus the child's attention on right-leaning and continuous writing;

explain the algorithms of motor actions;

play and perform exercises that promote the development of motor skills and visual perception;

be positive about the peculiarities of the baby.

In conclusion, we note that the psychological and some physical features of left-handed children should not be considered oddities or defects. A left-handed person is just as much a full-fledged member of society as a right-handed person. Moreover, he has every opportunity to develop his sometimes unconventional abilities if adults provide all possible help, support and understanding.

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