An intellectual disability means significantly sub average general intellectual functioning, existing concurrently with deficits in adaptive behavior and manifested during the developmental period, that adversely affects a child’s educational performance.

IDEA Definition:

Academic:
- Learns at a slower rate
- Learns concretely
- Difficulty remembering expectations and directions
- Takes a longer time to complete task
- Academic deficits

Physical:
- Doesn’t understand pragmatics or social cues
- Deficits in everyday life skills (adaptive behavior)
- Socially immature

Educational Approach
- Direct instruction
- Embedded functional curriculum
- Use concrete examples when teaching
- Move from concrete objects, pictures, to symbols, then to graphics/abstracts
- Unison responding (choral responding)
- Use of visuals
- Structured class and schedule (give notice for changes)
- Extended Generalization for all content
- Peer buddies
- Connect old learning to new learning

Common Characteristics

Social and Behavioral:
- Socially awkward
- Normally extra friendly
- Normally east to please
- Persistent
- Becomes fixated on certain topics
- Overly dependent on parents/caretakers
- May struggle controlling emotions
- Lacks appropriate social skills for getting attention
**Instructional Strategies**

- Cooperative learning groups (heterogeneous)
- Alternative curriculum
- Alternative assignments (products)
- Connect learning to real life
- Extra practice
- Hands on learning- using a manipulative and a variety of different tools
- Repetition and use gestures to prompt and remind
- Homework only after mastery
- Incorporate mnemonics, movement, and drama (role playing and acting)

**Common Accommodations:**

- Partner or cooperative learning
- Alternative curriculum
- Pre teach concepts
- Alternative Assignments (products)
- Extra practice
- Audio text or Read Aloud
- Scribe
- Paper based resources that assist student in recalling information: charts, word list, step by step directions, number lines, and word walls

**Extra Fact:**
People who have Mild Intellectual disabilities usually have an IQ of about 50-70.