



TABLE 7.4 Characteristics of Successful and Unsuccessful Adults With Learning Disabilities

Successful Adults	Unsuccessful Adults
Maintain perseverance in dealing with life events	Do not understand or accept their learning disability
Develop coping strategies and know how to reduce stress	Fail to take control of their lives
Maintain emotional stability	Maintain a sense of learned helplessness and fail to assume responsibility
Have and use support systems	Seek and promote dependent relationships
Demonstrate motivation and persistence	Exhibit a lack of drive and motivation
Pursue careers that maximize their strengths and minimize their weaknesses	Fail to establish social support systems
Develop creative ways to compensate and problem-solve	Drop out of secondary school
Maintain a positive attitude toward learning	

SOURCE: Adapted from C. Mercer, *Students With Learning Disabilities*, 5th ed. (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1997), p. 400. Reprinted by permission of Pearson Education, Inc., Upper Saddle River, NJ.