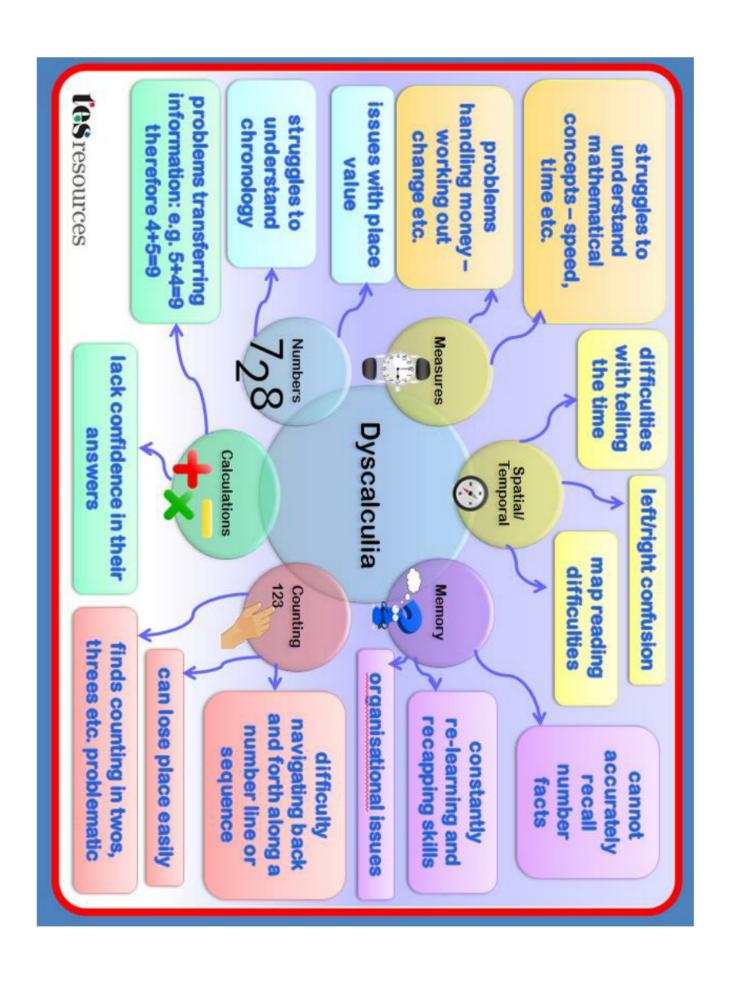


# Maths Barriers

(including Dyscalculia)

## Information Booklet



## Dyscalculia

#### Definition

Dyscalculia means inability to calculate, and is the most widely used term for disabilities in arithmetic and mathematics.

#### Incidence

Research suggests that its prevalence is at least 6 percent of the school-aged population.

#### **Symptoms**

- ➤ May confuse mathematical symbols
- ➤ Poor mental arithmetic skills
- ➤ Inability to grasp and remember mathematical concepts, rules, formulae, and sequences



#### Causes

- Poor cognitive skills including visual memory and logical thinking
- Lacks math skills and knowledge

#### Intervention

- > Improve cognitive skills
- > Teach math skills and knowledge

#### Dyscalculia is...

- A learning issue that makes it hard to understand concepts related to numbers and do tasks like add and subtract.
- A common condition. Some experts say dyscalculia is just as common as dyslexia.
- A common co-occurrence. Dyscalculia can exist on its own but is often found in kids with issues like dyslexia and ADHD.

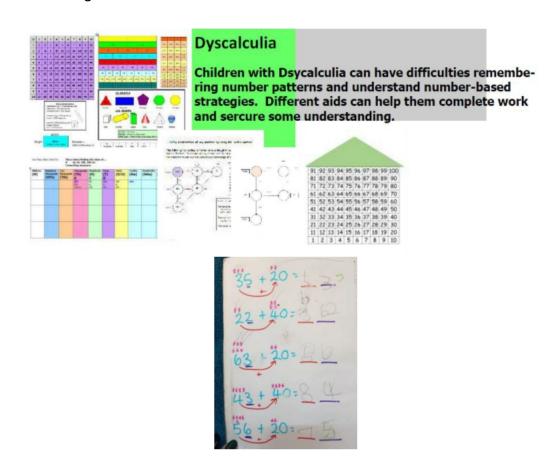
#### Dycalculia is not...

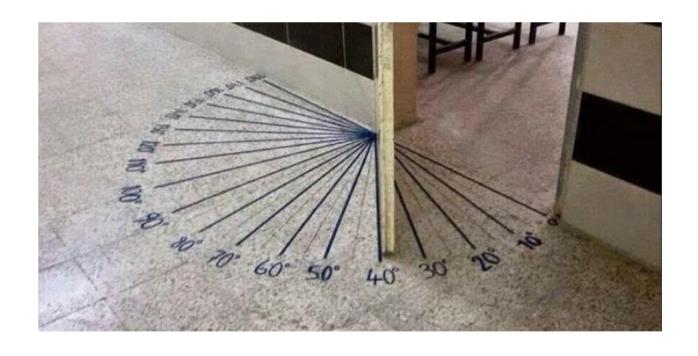
- A sign of low intelligence. You can be very smart and have dyscalculia.
- The same thing as math anxiety. But it often co-occurs with this emotional issue, which involves self-doubt and fear of failure.
- A lack of effort. Kids with dyscalculia need different kinds of interventions to make progress—not more of the same instruction.

Telling time Counting Working with money, like making change Remembering Identifying basic math facts. symbols like Kids with dyscalculia like 2 + 4 = 6+ and - and using them correctly may have trouble with... Understanding Understanding words related to math, Telling left how numbers are like "greater than" Calculating on from right related to each other paper or in their head

#### Easy tips for students struggling in or with learning difficulties in Maths

- Have a hundred board starting with 1 at the bottom
- Offer times tables in lists instead of a grid
- Use manipulatives (a variety of) and visuals as much as possible (numicons, deans, tens/hundred boards, abacus etc)
- Don't mix operations within the same task
- Shorten the task/tasks so they do not seem overwhelming
- Be aware of what your focus is. Do they HAVE to write out the question or can they just write out the answer on the sheet
- Is language a barrier? Are you testing their English or Maths skills
- Give thinking time
- Check the children's work after 1 or 2 questions so you know they're on track
- Use colours and arrows to highlight the process
- Focus on place value
- Have the learner verbalise their thinking to help YOU understand how their mind is working





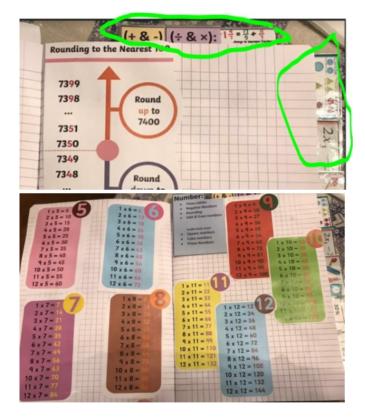
### **Dyscalculia notebook (for students)**

Plastic covered from and back so students can use a whiteboard pen to work on





Laminated tabs so students can easily find the concept they need



Grouped concepts student finds difficult to understand and implement and recall. It's important for students to contribute as much as possible to the notebook

When a new concept is introduced, students can write the process and some examples themselves to help create connections with the strategies

