



Rudgwick Primary School Dyscalculia Advice

Dyscalculia is a difficulty with mathematics. It is often associated with difficulties in understanding and manipulating numbers and learning mathematical facts. Dyscalculia is a neurological disorder. People with dyscalculia have difficulties mastering number sense, facts and calculations.

What are the indicators of dyscalculia?

- Have difficulty when counting backwards.
- Have a poor sense of number and estimation.
- Have difficulty in remembering 'basic' facts, despite many hours of practice/rote learning.
- Have no strategies to compensate for lack of recall, other than to use counting.
- Have difficulty in understanding place value and the role of zero in the Arabic/Hindu number system.
- Have no sense of whether any answers that are obtained are right or nearly right.
- Be slower to perform calculations. (Therefore give fewer examples, rather than more time).
- Forget mathematical procedures, especially as they become more complex, for example 'long' division. Addition is often the default operation. The other operations are usually very poorly executed (or avoided altogether).
- Avoid tasks that are perceived as difficult and likely to result in a wrong answer.
- Have weak mental arithmetic skills.
- Have high levels of mathematics anxiety.
- Poor ability to recognise numbers.
- Difficulties with basic mathematical skills, such as counting, sequencing and operations.
- Problems remembering maths facts.
- Persistent use of ineffective mathematical strategies.
- Older children will show continued difficulty of number facts, maths sense and show difficulties with multi step problems.

How to help my child?

- Help them to develop a growth mind set and to enjoy maths through games and real life problems. This will help to give your child a purpose for their learning. Praise effort and perseverance.

- Give them lots of opportunities to practice maths concepts using manipulatives. Repeat, repeat, repeat.
- Always go back to what they know.
- Makes maths fun – for example talk about fractions of a pizza, discuss money through earning pocket money. Show them that you enjoy maths too.
<https://thirdspacelearning.com/blog/13-outdoor-maths-activities-early-years-year-6-plus-bonus-ages/>
- Use resources to help your child visualise numbers – cones, stones, counters, dice, use a ruler as a number line, sticks and Lego.
- Cooking is a great fun way to learn measuring and weighing skills.
- Play with a calculator.
- Use technology.
<https://www.callscotland.org.uk/common-assets/cm-files/posters/ipad-apps-for-learners-with-dyscalculianumeracy-difficulties.pdf>
- Use memory aides for mathematical facts.
E.g. times tables square.
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/T-N-017-Multiplication-Square>
Number line
<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/search>

Some more ideas here...

https://www.understood.org/en/learning-thinking-differences/child-learning-disabilities/math-issues/how-to-help-your-child-with-math? ul=1*10ypjdx*domain_userid*YW1wLXRXTWNmbkdPN2hPTW9PX0ZJVfd6V0E.

<https://blog.brainbalancecenters.com/2016/10/7-practical-ways-parents-can-help-child-dyscalculia>