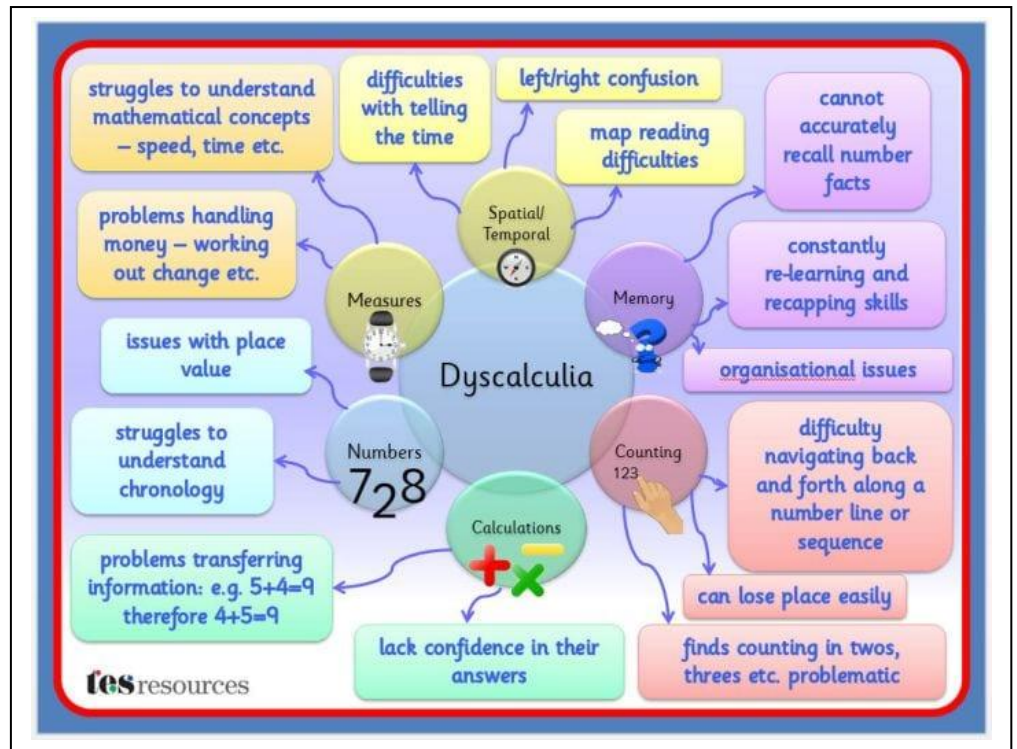


# SEND Bulletin No. 11



## Dyscalculia

Dyscalculia is a specific learning disability involving maths skills. It may be a difficulty with counting and calculating, understanding abstract maths concepts or working with numbers and symbols.

### Key characteristics

Children with dyscalculia may have:

- normal or above average verbal skills and good visual memory for the printed word
- difficulty understanding maths concepts, rules and sequences, especially involving time and money
- a tendency to make substitutions, transpositions, omissions and reversals when reading and writing numbers
- a poor sense of direction (such as confusing left and right, getting easily lost, losing things) and time (such as often arriving late)
- difficulty recalling names and faces
- poor mental maths skills
- poor coordination when involved in activities requiring change of direction, such as aerobics, exercise and dance sessions
- difficulty with keeping score in games or working out strategies in chess.

## Support strategies

You may need to:

- Use a wide range of concrete manipulatives in a way that supports visualisation and understanding
- Don't be in a hurry to get through masses of content
- Make sure that the basics are fully embedded
- Play games that reinforce mathematical concepts to keep up motivation
- Try to move children on from the counting trap, by developing reasoning and understanding of mathematical relationships
- encourage learners to make use of calculators when necessary
- make use of ICT as an aid to learning
- use multi-sensory teaching strategies to support the learning of new concepts
- encourage working with a partner to explain methods of working to each other
- incorporate practical activities wherever possible

## Support agencies

- Dyslexia Action: [www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk)
- Dyslexia Scotland: [www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk)

## Resources

- The Dyscalculia Toolkit: Supporting Learning Difficulties by Ronit Bird

ISBN: 978-1-4482-6718-9

- More Trouble with Maths by Steve Chinn

ISBN: 978-0-415-67013-5

If you have any particular items you would like information on or any interesting information or resources which you would like to share with your colleagues via this fortnightly bulletin please e-mail them to me:

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Many thanks

Anne

SEN / ARI/ 25/02/2026