

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES



ADDvanced Solutions
Supporting you to find the answers

Dyscalculia

Dyscalculia is a specific learning difficulty around gaining number skills. It is more than simply not liking maths; people with dyscalculia don't have an intuitive grasp of numbers and find it extremely difficult to process mathematical concepts. People with dyscalculia will need extra help with numbers in the same way that people with dyslexia need help with words.

People with dyscalculia will find it very difficult to count forwards and backwards, particularly counting in twos or more. Concepts such as number bonds (pairs of numbers adding up to ten), that form a foundation for basic calculation skills, seem to be difficult for people with dyscalculia to access. They can't easily bring them to mind or use them in more difficult maths problems.

Dyscalculic individuals also often have difficulties with the concept of time, and in estimating how much time has passed or in knowing how long, say, five minutes will be. They may also have trouble in telling the time. They will also have trouble with the concept of money which seems incongruous with their overall intelligence. They can have problems with directions, confusing left and right, and also with sequencing (particularly with maths problems).

Tony Attwood has founded 'the Dyscalculia Centre' and has proposed that there are five different types of dyscalculia which illustrates the way that dyscalculia can be experienced very differently by different people.

For more information, see www.dyscalculia.me.uk

Dyscalculic children often feel acutely ashamed or embarrassed by their difficulty with numbers, and don't understand why other children just seem to 'get it'. They may be particularly vulnerable when their teachers employ an interactive, whole-class style as they will feel their weakness in maths is exposed to the rest of the class. It is important that these children are understood and supported as soon as their difficulties are identified.

www.advancedsolutions.co.uk

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