



# Information Sheet: Dyscalculia

## What is dyscalculia?

Dyscalculia is a specific and persistent difficulty in understanding numbers which can lead to a diverse range of difficulties in mathematics. It is not related to age, level of education or experience and occurs across all ages.

## Signs of dyscalculia

- Difficulty counting backwards.
- Difficulty remembering basic facts.
- Slow to perform calculations.
- Weak mental arithmetic skills.
- A poor sense of numbers and estimation.
- Difficulty in understanding place value.
- Addition is often the default operation.
- High levels of maths anxiety.

## How can a learner be supported with dyscalculia or similar traits?

- Try to relate a new topic or concept to real-life examples.
- Circle or highlight the relevant information or numbers to help them focus.
- They may find it helpful to cover up the problems they are not working on.
- Spend time covering topics and teaching points again in a small group or individually so gaps can be noted.
- Provide practical resources where possible.
- Try not to ask them a maths question in front of the class.
- Some learners may benefit from small group teaching, so the pace is right for them to absorb the concepts or have them re-explained.

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