## OCK SPECIAL WIZARD

LEARNING DISABILITY: DYSCALCULIA

It's time we take mental health seriously

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men







Often we scold our children for getting less marks in mathematics. We generally associate it with lack of practice, low concentration level and irresponsibility.

Have you ever thought if there could be a serious problem behind such behavior?

Dyscalculia is a type of learning disability associated with difficulty in understanding number-related concepts, performing accurate math calculations, reasoning and problem solving, and performing other basic math skills.

Its time we acknowledge difficulties and support our children to become best version of themselves.

In case of severity don't hesitate to contact a psychologist for help and diagnosis.

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## Dyscalculia

is a broad term for severe difficulties in math. It includes all types of math problems ranging from inability to understand the meaning of numbers to inability to apply math principles to solve problems.

## 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

Working with money, like making change Counting

Remembering basic math facts, like 2 + 4 = 6

Kids with dyscalculia may have trouble with...

Identifying symbols like + and – and using them correctly

Understanding words related to math, like "greater than"

Calculating on paper or in their head Telling left from right Understanding how numbers are related to each other Planning, Scheduling and being on time

Recognising Digits Placing Values

School time tables and deadlines

Memorising numbers, prices, phone numbers Carrying and Borrowing

Reading Analogue Clocks Difficulties associated with Dyscalculia

Counting Backwards

Dyslexic.com



## DYSCALCULIA

Symptom checker

BY DR. LISA LONG

## PRE-SCHOOL & KINDERGARDEN

- Finds it hard to recognize patterns and sort items by size, shape or color
- Has trouble learning to count, especially when it comes to assigning each object in a group a number
- Avoids playing popular games like that involve numbers, counting and math.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Has trouble telling time.
- Has difficulty learning and recalling basic math facts, such as 2 + 4 = 6
- May still use fingers to count instead of using more sophisticated strategies
- Has anxiety about math concepts.

## **HIGH SCHOOL**

- Has trouble measuring things, like ingredients in a simple recipe
- Struggles with finding his way around and worries about getting lost
- Has trouble grasping information shown on graphs or charts

# TOP 5 TIPS FOR TEACHING DYSCALCULIC LEARNERS



- Start at the concrete stage, to give the child plenty of hands-on practical experience. Progress gradually to diagrams before moving on to abstract work.
- Use concrete materials, such as counters arranged in dot patterns and Cuisenaire rods.
- Break down every stage of learning into the smallest of steps. Make sure the necessary pre-skills are in place.
- Teach reasoning strategies.

  Avoid methods that rely on too much memorising.
- For practice, give children games and puzzles, not worksheets. Focus on practice of efficient strategies, not number facts.

## **IDEAS FOR HOME**

Simple everyday things can have an enormous impact. Try to incorporate math into daily living.

- Give your child pocket money.
- Use play or real money to play shops, restaurants, movies theatres.
- Use any sort of counters to illustrate concepts.
   Coloured paddle pop sticks, plastic pirate coins or any cheap bulk item.
- Cook with your child to illustrate measurement concepts.
- Solve real life problems with money, measurement and time.
- Help a child learn to read a map and calculate distances when you take trips by car.

## SOME ACTIVITIES TO MAKE MATHS EASY

Click on the links below to get details of the activities

## PADDLE POP STICKS

CLICKHERETO LEARN

## **DOT CARD ACTIVITIES**

CLICKHERETOLEARN

## **ABACUS**

CLICK HERETO LEARN

## **PACK OF CARDS**

- Hand out cards. Students have to pick which card has the largest/smallest number
- With pack of cards students can add 2 cards together
- Students can also search for 2 cards that add up to a specific number



CLICK TO WATCH

What is Dyscalculia? -Simple Explanation and Solution



### CLICK TO WATCH

Dyscalculia: Teaching Strategies & Modifications



### **CLICK TO WATCH**

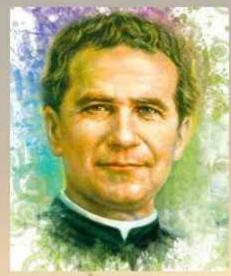
Dyscalculia A Parent's Guide



## KEY WORDS TO SEARCH

- 1. Why is leaning disability?
- 2. What are the different kind of learning disability?
- 3. How does a special educator helps a dyscalculia child?
- 4. Activities for dyscalculia children?
- 5. How can a psychologist help in diagnosis of dyscalculia?
- 6. Can dyscalculia be cured?

Children are not things to be moulded, but are people to be unfolded



I do not fear at all what men can do to me for speaking the truth. I only fear what God would do if I were to lie.

- Don Bosco



## Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk

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