

# Dyscalculia

dis-cal-cue-lee-uh 

**Dyscalculia** is a brain-based learning disorder in mathematics. It is a persistent learning difficulty that makes it hard to understand and learn numbers and work with mathematical concepts.

## What does dyscalculia look like?

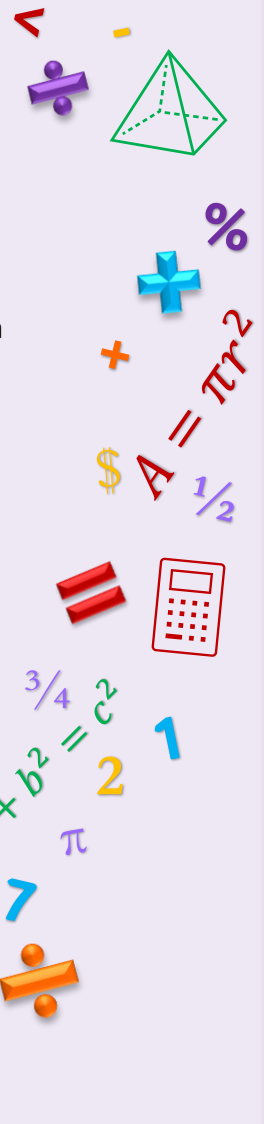
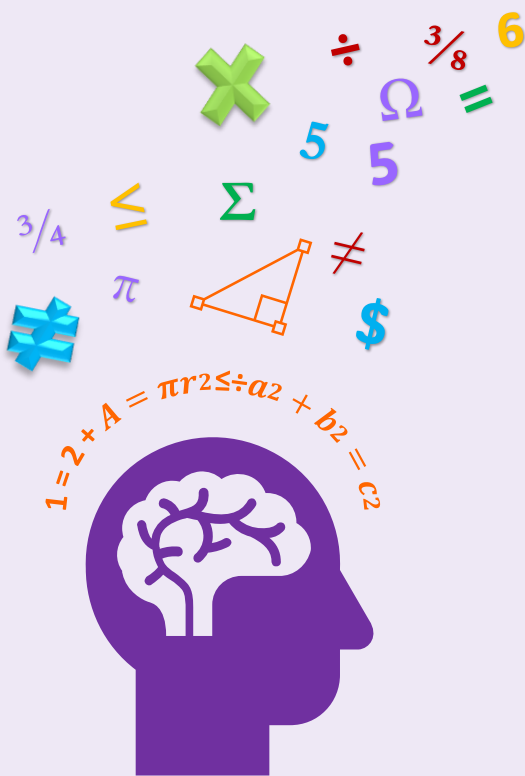
Dyscalculics may experience **difficulties** with:


- understanding multi step mathematic problems
- learning and remembering mathematic facts
- number sense: grasping the properties of numbers (knowing that '9' is nine '1's, but also that it is three '3's)
- counting, sequencing, estimating
- understanding and manipulating numbers
- connecting operation symbols and words

## The impacts of dyscalculia



Dyscalculia can **impact** activities in daily life. It can affect academic progress and career progression. Those with dyscalculia tend to have difficulties with:

- reading and managing time
- financial wellbeing
- recalling PIN, log ins, dates or telephone numbers
- understanding and estimating distances and travel times
- measuring quantities when cooking, sewing, building etc.
- understanding percentages and fractions when shopping





Dyscalculia isn't a problem of intelligence or lack of effort! Adults and children with dyscalculia do not process numbers the same way that neurotypical brains do.

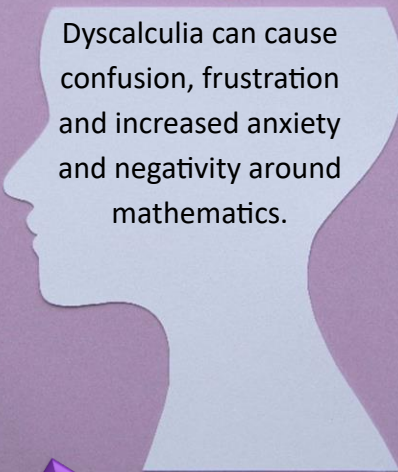


Signs of dyscalculia can show up as early as preschool, but it often goes unnoticed, or people might ignore signs because they assume someone is just "bad at math."



Dyscalculia can co-exist with other learning disorders like ADHD and dyslexia.



It is common to have a family history of dyscalculia.



Dyscalculia can cause confusion, frustration and increased anxiety and negativity around mathematics.




### ***I think my child has Dyscalculia, where to from now?***

Dyscalculia is diagnosed by a psychologist; they can investigate learning difficulties and strengths. Before seeking a diagnosis of dyscalculia, it is important to have eyesight and hearing checked. It is also a requirement that the person being assessed has received at least six months of mathematic focused intervention.



### ***Why diagnose?***



Mathematics is everywhere! It is incredibly important and without realising, we use mathematic concepts every day. Students with dyscalculia can improve their mathematical skills and confidence.

After assessment a psychologist can provide recommendations for support. Students with dyscalculia will generally need lots of opportunities to practise mathematical skills and may benefit from systematic mathematics intervention programs or working with experienced tutors.

