

Dyscalculia

What is Dyscalculia and where to find help and support?

Dyscalculia is a specific and persistent difficulty in understanding numbers which can lead to a wide range of difficulties with mathematics. It will be unexpected in relation to age, level of education and experience and occurs across all ages and abilities. People with dyscalculia may just struggle with numbers, whilst others may have other difficulties too, such as dyslexia or memory difficulties. It is a relatively newly identified need and is still not well-known. As with all strengths and weaknesses, the key is working out what specific things the person finds difficult and the things they are naturally good at. This can then help to support how they are taught, by using those strengths to support the learning.

How do I know if my child has dyscalculia ?

A person with dyscalculia may struggle to: count backwards; remember 'number facts, despite many hours of practice; understand place value and the role of zero; perform calculations; and more. It will be different in different people but be seen in all aspects of maths and may not be seen in other subjects.

There is no single test and educational psychologists will use a range of assessments to determine if dyscalculia explains a child's needs.

Who can help?

- Start with your child's teacher or SENCo and tell them what is worrying you. They can check a number of things to see if they can work out what your child finds difficult. They may seek further help from an Educational Psychologist, who can make a diagnosis if its needed.
- You may need to get your child's eye sight tested to check they can see ok.
- You can find more help and information on the British Dyslexia Association's website: <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/dyslexia>
- The best thing you can do is to talk to the professionals and work together to help your child learn and develop.

Where to find out more on website:

www.pinpoint-cambs.org.uk and look under Useful Information