

## Dyscalculia Facts

Developmental Dyscalculia is one of a family of specific learning difficulties like Dyslexia, and is perceived as a difficulty with Maths and Arithmetic. And often more than one condition occurs in one person, for example dyslexia, dyspraxia or ADHD/ADD

What all definitions have in common is:

- A presence of difficulties with mathematics
- The mathematical difficulties are not caused by lack of educational opportunities
- The level of difficulty is below expectations for the individual's age.

### How common is it?

Compared to dyslexia, dyscalculia is under studied and under resourced. However, it is estimated that dyscalculia is likely to occur in 3% – 6% of the world's population, and is as likely to affect females as males, unlike some other specific learning difficulties.

### What are the symptoms?

Typical symptoms of dyscalculia are

- Struggle to count backwards
- Struggle with making estimations when dealing with numbers
- May struggle to retain basic facts involving numbers
- Find it hard to evaluate if a maths answer is correct or close to being
- Take longer to perform calculations
- Forget long mathematical formula or procedures, such as long division
- May be reluctant to try and solve mathematical problems and will prefer addition
- Mental arithmetic skills will not be very strong
- Be anxious about completing maths tasks
- Want to avoid difficult mathematics task for fear of getting the wrong answer
- Find it hard to understand information on charts and graphs.
- Has trouble applying math concepts to money, such as making exact change and figuring out a tip.
- Has trouble measuring things like ingredients in a simple recipe or liquids in a bottle.

- Lacks confidence in activities that require understanding speed, distance and directions, and may get lost easily.
- Has trouble finding different approaches to the same math problem, such as adding the length and width of a rectangle and doubling the answer to solve for the perimeter (rather than adding all the sides)

## Support with Dyscalculia

### Adjustments at work

If you're in work, let your employer know that you have dyscalculia, as they are required by law to make reasonable adjustments to the workplace to assist you.

Examples of reasonable adjustments may include:

- Giving extra time for assignments that involve numbers and offering a quiet room away from distraction to concentrate and allow employee to focus
- Providing any extra objects to aid counting
- As dyscalculia is recognized as an official disability under The Equality Act 2010, Government-funded grants are available through Access to Work (AtW), which is operated by Job Center Plus. If an employee applies for funding within the first 6 weeks of employment, AtW will cover up to 100% of the costs of the reasonable adjustments. If the application is made after the 6 weeks, then AtW may cover a significant amount of the costs but this is dependent on the type and size of the organization you work for.

### Online Support

There is lots of information and support available for anyone with dyslexia, please see below some of the recommended websites.

The British Dyslexia Associations -

<http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/dyslexic/dyscalculia>

<http://www.aboutdyscalculia.org>