

# Dyscalculia

## What does this mean ?

Children with dyscalculia find Maths very difficult.

It is a recognised condition shared by 5% of people

It is acknowledged in the SEN Code of Practice as a 'Specific Learning Difficulty'

Children with this learning difficulty may excel in other areas of the curriculum but Maths will always be a challenge.

## What should I do if I think my child may have Dyscalculia ?

Let the class teacher know.

Talk to the school SENCo and ask for a simple test to be done.

Understand that mathematical concepts will be difficult and be patient if you are trying to explain something.

## What type of difficulty might indicate Dyscalculia ?

An inability to count in 2s, 5s, 10s and 100s

An inability to count backwards

Not knowing which number is the biggest or smallest

Not being able to remember number bonds or tables

Not being able to match numbers to amounts eg. 5 counters will be counted as 7

Giving wild and impossible answers

*There are many other indicators but these are the most obvious.*

## How can you help at home ?

- 1) Use lots of practical objects when doing maths problems.
- 2) Play games using a dice.
- 3) Give real life examples.
- 4) Involve your child in every day Maths (eg Laying tables/counting money)
- 5) Draw pictures and diagrams to help your child understand.
- 6) Practise counting up and back in 1s, 10s, 5s
- 7) Group counters in tens and ones to show how place value works.
- 8) Use the internet to find fun numeracy games and play them with your child.
- 9) Try singing and chanting tables to rote learn them.
- 10) Remind your child what mathematical symbols really mean.
  - eg + means putting two sets of objects together
  - means taking some objects from a bigger group

*Please feel free to come and see me if you would like to discuss this in greater depth.*

*Henrietta Sandford*

*Senco*