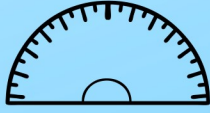


# Dyscalculia FAQ's for Parents



## What is dyscalculia?

### **DYS CALCULIA IS A SPECIFIC LEARNING DISORDER**

Just like dyslexia, dysgraphia, and other SLD's, dyscalculia is a type of neurodiversity (a different way of thinking), not a teaching or practicing issue. It might be hereditary. SLD's require special support but students can be successful with any SLD.

## Is it just math anxiety?

### **NO, MATH ANXIETY IS DIFFERENT**

Math anxiety is an emotional and chemical response that blocks information. Dyscalculia is a way of thinking about and storing math information. Many people with dyscalculia develop math anxiety; they both affect math performance, but they are different issues.

## Is dyscalculia real?

### **YES, NEUROLOGISTS HAVE STUDIED IT FOR DECADES**

Yes, dyscalculia is real, it is documented, and it is a lifelong learning disorder. About 10% of people have dyscalculia; they can all be successful in math, especially higher level math, with the right support and accommodations.

## How can I identify dyscalculia?

### **YOU CAN'T, BUT AN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST OR NEUROLOGIST CAN**

Parents are often the first to suspect a learning disorder. A trained professional should do a complete evaluation that includes aptitude tests, IQ tests, processing speed, and working memory tests to diagnose learning differences.

## What does dyscalculia look like?

### **PERSISTENT, CONSISTENT MATH DIFFICULTIES**

Dyscalculics have trouble memorizing basic math facts, remembering and following procedures, and often don't understand time or place value. They learn math, and then forget what they learned, even with extra practice. Subtraction, division, and other topics don't make sense to these students.