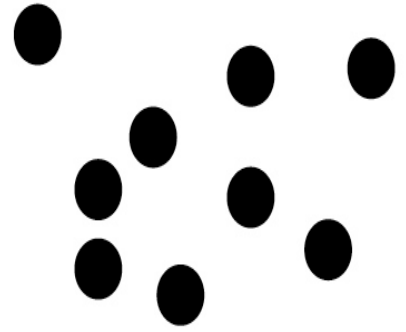


SEND Bulletin No. 5

HOW FAST CAN YOU COUNT THESE DOTS?

Children with dyscalculia take longer than other children to count dot patterns. Most instantly recognize patterns of up to four dots, whereas dyscalculics tend to count the dots one by one.



Dyscalculia

Dyscalculia is a specific learning disability involving maths skills. It may be a difficulty with counting and calculating, understanding abstract maths concepts or working with numbers and symbols.

Key characteristics

Children with dyscalculia may have:

- normal or above average verbal skills and good visual memory for the printed word
- difficulty understanding maths concepts, rules and sequences, especially involving time and money
- a tendency to make substitutions, transpositions, omissions and reversals when reading and writing numbers
- a poor sense of direction (such as confusing left and right, getting easily lost, losing things) and time (such as often arriving late)
- difficulty recalling names and faces
- poor mental maths skills
- poor coordination when involved in activities requiring change of direction, such as aerobics, exercise and dance sessions
- difficulty with keeping score in games or working out strategies in chess.

Support strategies

You may need to:

- allow extra time to complete a task
- encourage learners to make use of calculators when necessary
- use visual and concrete materials to develop understanding of maths concepts
- make use of ICT as an aid to learning

- use multi-sensory teaching strategies to support the learning of new concepts
- encourage working with a partner to explain methods of working to each other
- incorporate practical activities into most lessons
- allow for the need to over-learn maths concepts and rules.

Support agencies

- Dyslexia Action: www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk
- Dyslexia Scotland: www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk

Resources

- The Dyscalculia Toolkit: Supporting Learning Difficulties by Ronit Bird

ISBN: 978-1-4482-6718-9

- More Trouble with Maths by Steve Chinn

ISBN: 978-0-415-67013-5

If you have any particular items you would like information on or any interesting information or resources which you would like to share with your colleagues via this fortnightly bulletin please e-mail them to me:

ari@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk

Many thanks

Anne