

Dyscalculia: How *The Brain & Learning* Can Help

Definition

Dyscalculia comes from Greek and Latin and simply means counting badly. Today, the word serves as a broad term for learning difficulties in math. About 5 percent of people struggle with this learning disability.

Cause

Genetics can play a role, but the main cause is generally due to weak cognitive skills. Most people with dyscalculia have poor visual processing and memory skills.

Diagnosis

Dyscalculia can be hard to detect and students are rarely diagnosed at school. Most people with dyscalculia have normal or accelerated language acquisition, so parents simply sense that when it comes to math, something's not connecting.

Testing includes:

- Standardized tests and math ability tests when compared to same-age children
- Cognitive skills testing
- On-line testing combined with extensive parental documentation

Our Cognitive skills testing can pinpoint any weak mental skills that may be creating or contributing to the condition.

Symptoms and characteristics

- Difficulty working with numbers
- Confusion over math symbols
- Difficulty with basic math (adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing)
- Reversing or transposing numbers (89 becomes 98)

- Difficulty with mental math
 - Trouble telling time and direction
 - Problems grasping and remembering math concepts
 - Trouble with sequencing
 - Poor long-term memory
 - Poor athletic coordination
 - Struggles with keeping score during games
 - Normal or accelerated language acquisition
 - Average or above average intelligence
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Treatments and therapies

- **Focusing on strengths:** helps compensate for weak skills
 - **Accommodation:** students and teachers adapt to, and work around, limitations
 - **Tutoring:** a short-term fix that can help students catch up (such as after an extended absence due to illness, injury or a family move)
 - **Cognitive skills training:** the only treatment that attacks the root of the problem by strengthening weak mental skills. Brain training at The Brain & Learning can strengthen those skills to the point where the symptoms are eliminated, the diagnosis no longer fits, and math is easier, faster, and more fun.
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Call The Brain & Learning today to learn more about cognitive skills testing!

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Visit www.thebrainandlearning.com for more information

