

Go to Guide – Dyscalculia

Purpose of this guide: This guide has been created to support and guide teachers when supporting students with Dyscalculia in the classroom.

What is Dyscalculia?

Dyscalculia is specific and persistent difficulty in understanding numbers which can lead to a diverse range of difficulties with math's. It will be unexpected in relation to age, level of education and experience and occurs across all ages and abilities. Dyscalculia and maths anxiety often overlap, but while these challenges sometimes look the same, they are actually different.

Tips/Strategies to support students in college:

There are specific ways of establishing a sense of number:

- Students need to be taught to visually internalize what a number (rather than a digit) looks and feels like. If they learn to match digits or numerals with visual quantities they will learn how numbers can be deconstructed to make other numbers or quantities.

This is similar to the way in which students with dyslexia are specifically taught to match letters to sounds and how to deconstruct and reconstruct words from letters and sounds.

This should take away the fear of numbers and establish a sense of what numbers mean.

The strategy of using of concrete manipulatives will benefit learners:

- Use of Cuisinaire Rods (an interactive, hands-on way to explore maths and learn concepts)
- Diene's apparatus (place values frame, base ten frame-helping with addition, subtraction, number sense and place value)
- Dot patterns
- Numicon (help students to see patterns and connections between numbers)
- Use of reference points-cost of basic items, budgeting, estimating travel time, discounts (percentages), measurements etc. students will need someone to help them establish these references and write them down.