

What is Dyscalculia?

Dyscalculia is a specific and persistent difficulty in understanding numbers which can lead to a diverse range of difficulties with mathematics. It will be unexpected in relation to age, level of education and experience and occurs across all ages and abilities.

Mathematics difficulties are best thought of as a continuum, not a distinct category, and they have many causal factors. Dyscalculia falls at one end of the spectrum and will be distinguishable from other mathematics issues due to the severity of difficulties with number sense, including subitising, symbolic and non-symbolic magnitude comparison, and ordering. It can occur singly but can also co-occur with other specific learning difficulties, mathematics anxiety and medical conditions.



What is included in a dyscalculia assessment?

A full Dyscalculia assessment takes approximately 5 hours.

It includes:

1. Tests of verbal, visual and visual-spatial reasoning and cognitive processing (such as memory, phonological processing, processing speed and accuracy, visual-spatial sequential skills) to identify domain-general strengths and weaknesses within the cognitive profile.
2. Tests of literacy and mathematics skills to identify strengths and weaknesses within the attainment profile.
3. Informal, qualitative tests of understanding of number that use subitising, symbolic and non-symbolic magnitude comparison, ordering and concrete tools to explore the concept of number. This could include screeners designed to explore number sense.
4. Standardised measures of Arithmetic (+, -, x, ÷). Timed and untimed to establish what difference time pressure makes upon performance.
5. Mathematics reasoning and problem-solving, including word problems to explore whether the difficulties are related to number, or mathematical terminology, or language more generally.
6. Qualitative analysis of performance within these tests:

Approximately 60% of dyslexic individuals have difficulties with numeracy and this is part of their dyslexic profile. Dyscalculia is a specific difficulty with maths which is very severe and often means they have little concept of number. This assessment will identify whether the numerical difficulties are dyscalculia.

The assessment can be conducted at our office in Orpington only. Contact Sarah on 01689 862610 info@dyslexiaservices.net for more information.