Dyscalculia

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Symptoms

- Difficulty understanding number concepts and arithmetic.
- Trouble telling time, counting change or estimating quantities.
- High anxiety when faced with mathematical tasks.

Age & Gender

- Signs appear early, often when learning to count or recognise numbers.
- Research suggests it affects males and females equally.

Misconceptions

- It’s not just being 'bad at maths' or lacking effort.
- It’s a neurological difference, not a sign of low intelligence.
- It’s not rare, just less frequently diagnosed than dyslexia.

Diagnosis

- Assessment by a specialist teacher or Educational Psychologist.
- Standardised tests measure number sense and calculation ability against age norms.

Support options

- Multisensory teaching using physical objects like counters.
- Technological aids like calculators or voice-activated apps.
- Focus on practical maths needed for daily life (e.g. money, time).

Support

- Provide reference charts or visual aids for numbers.
- Allow extra time for any task involving data or figures.
- Avoid putting them on the spot with mental maths questions.

This information isn't a diagnostic tool. If you recognise these symptoms in yourself or others, please contact a doctor.

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