



Dyscalculia: A Family-Centered Approach



Overview

Finding out that a child may have a learning disability can be scary, but there is nothing to fear. Learning disabilities present unique challenges, but they don't have to hold anyone back from reaching their dreams, just look at Richard Branson, Larry Mullin Jr., Steven Spielberg, and Whoopi Goldberg (to name a few)! If your loved one has dyscalculia, whether it is suspected or diagnosed, they can still perform grade-level math, graduate from high school, go to college, and have the career they desire. The most effective way to reach these goals is through early identification, timely intervention, and appropriate accommodations. Dyscalculia is a learning disability that affects how students learn, understand, and remember math (www.thedtri.org).

WHY THIS MATTERS IN NEW JERSEY

In New Jersey, over 38,000 students have a Specific Learning Disability, including students with dyscalculia, affecting math skills such as number sense and problem-solving.

- Ask your child's school if they use a math screening tool and how you can support your child's math learning at home.

Best Practices

+ **-** **Teacher and Parent Observations**
% **×** Teachers identify math difficulties through classwork, while parents notice challenges at home, like counting or telling time. Both perspectives are important for creating a comprehensive understanding of a child's needs. Sharing observations with teachers fosters communication and ensures early support for children with dyscalculia.



Trends Over Time

It's common for children to struggle with some math topics. However, if your child consistently has difficulty with skills like counting, time, or basic calculations, it may indicate a larger issue. Sharing these concerns with their teacher can help determine if further support or evaluation is necessary.



When the Issue is Persistent or Complex

If your child is still struggling despite additional help, the school team may collaborate with you to assess whether additional support or a formal evaluation is necessary to address their learning needs.

Links



[Dyscalculia Fact Sheet \(www.thedtri.org\)](http://www.thedtri.org)



[Shining a Light on Dyscalculia \(www.edutopia.org\)](http://www.edutopia.org)

¹Price & Ansari (2013). Dyscalculia: Characteristics, causes, and treatments. Numeracy, 6(1). Doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5038/1936-4660.6.1.2>

