

SPOTLIGHT ON SEND

dyscalculia

If you have any questions please contact Mrs Downs, our Inclusion Leader.

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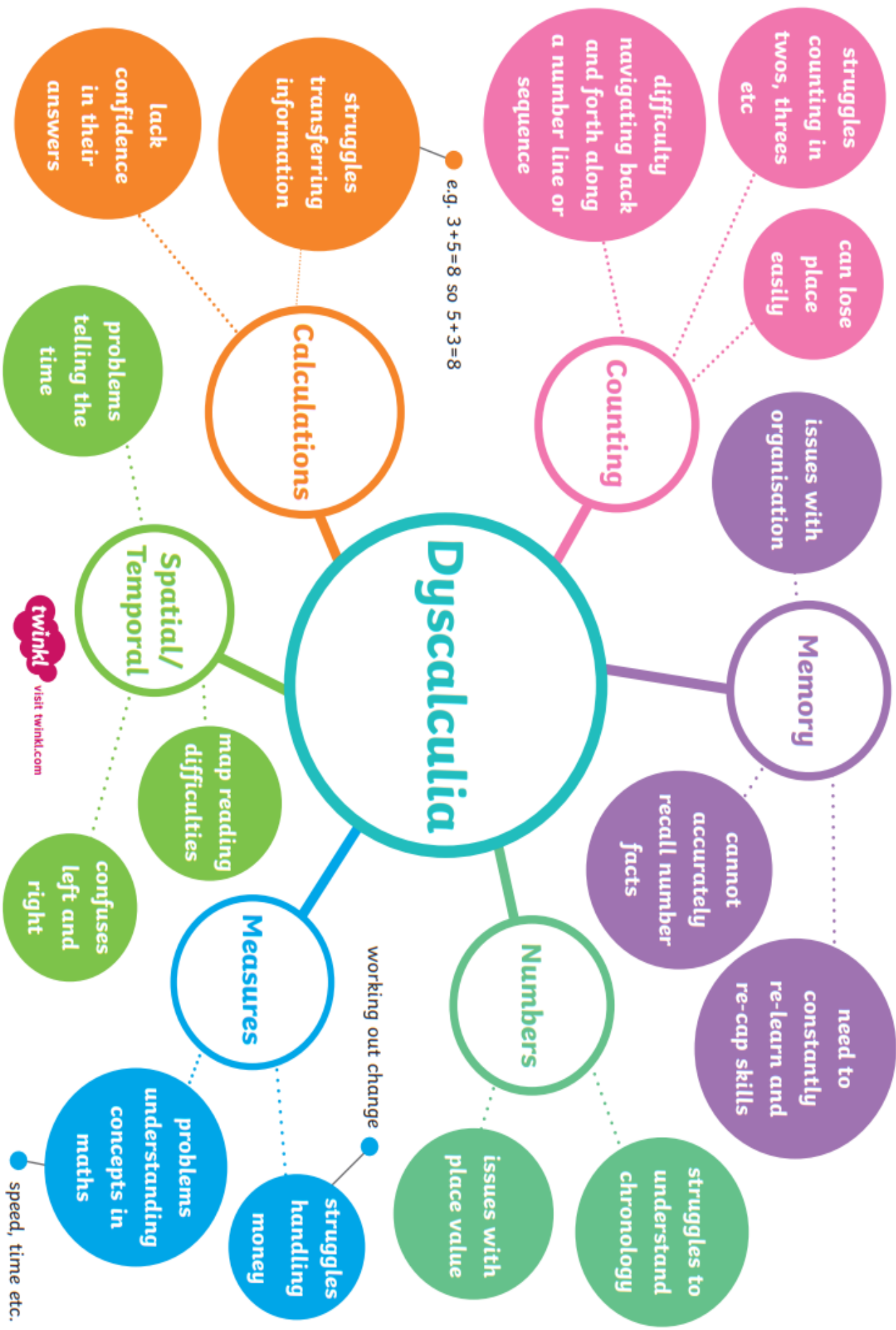
What is Dyscalculia?

According to the British Dyslexia Association, Developmental Dyscalculia (DD) is a specific learning disorder that is characterised by impairments in learning basic arithmetic facts, processing numerical magnitude and performing accurate and fluent calculations. This means that an affected pupil will struggle during maths lessons – in particular arithmetic. It is thought that about 25% of the population have some degree of dyscalculia.

Children with dyscalculia often have other developmental disorders such as dyslexia or ADHD. This is usually because of a poor working memory.

Children with dyscalculia often find it difficult to count backwards, need to resort to counting when trying to do arithmetic and have difficulty remembering number patterns despite lots of practice. Equally, they may struggle with estimation and becomes anxious and/or avoidant when challenged in maths lessons.





What can I do to support my child?

Use Objects

Your child will struggle to understand abstract mathematical concepts, so use anything you can at home to help them to see the maths. Counting, adding and subtracting real items, such as teddies, pencils or sweets will help them rather than expecting them to mentally work it out.

Use Real Life

Anything at home which uses maths skills and has a real life context will be useful. You could get your child to try some of these activities.

- Look at, group and count money.
- Role play shops and get them to give change.
- Go to the shops and get them to compare prices of similar items.
- Ask them the time at certain points during the day.
- Do some baking and put them in charge of measuring ingredients and working out timings.
- Measure furniture to see how it will fit in a space.
- Cut up pizzas into fractions or share some sweets equally between family members.

Maths Apps and Games

There are so many apps and games available to help with maths difficulties. Your child's school might subscribe to some computer programs which tackle these difficulties, so ask them if they have any suggestions. Games involving quick recognition of numbers (such as dominoes or dice games) are great, as are games using packs of cards: quick games can be played by choosing two cards and adding, subtracting or multiplying them. Hopscotch is a great one for counting and number sequencing - you can use different sequences of numbers for your child to hop to in order.

Build Confidence

Your child's confidence is bound to be affected by their difficulties in maths and, the chances are, it'll worsen with age. Look for any chance to build their confidence and avoid any negative comments such as, "You should know that by now" Your child is probably well aware that they should know it and are probably incredibly frustrated and embarrassed with the situation.

When working on any maths at home, break a task into very small parts so that your child can encounter success at getting some of those parts right. Focus on the process and not just the end product.

Stay calm and patient with your child - there's nothing more likely to knock your child's confidence than to hurry them up or belittle them. They're not struggling on purpose.