

## Dyscalculia Facts and Tips

**Definition:** Dyscalculia is a learning disability that makes it difficult to understand and manipulate numbers and learn math facts.

### Symptoms of dyscalculia:

- Trouble with logical information sequencing
- Trouble with time sequencing
- Struggle with quantitative concepts such as estimation or comparison
- Difficulty retrieving multiplication and division facts
- May understand higher math, but can't show it on paper
- May rely on tricks for remembering math facts
- Relies on calculators or finger counting
- Difficulty with directions and/or reading maps

### How to help in the classroom:

- ✓ Review what the student already learned before teaching new skills
- ✓ Teach students to "self-talk" through solving problems
- ✓ Use graph paper to help line up numbers and problems
- ✓ Give the student a list of the math formulas taught in the class
- ✓ Use concrete examples that connect math to real life
- ✓ Check in frequently to make sure the student understands to work
- ✓ Use graphic organizers to organize information or help break down math problems into steps
- ✓ Let the student use a calculator when computation isn't what's being assessed
- ✓ Give a rubric that describes the elements of an assignment
- ✓ Break down worksheets into sections
- ✓ Provide frequent checks during classwork
- ✓ List the steps for multi-step problems and algorithms
- ✓ Keep sample problems on the board
- ✓ Reduce the number of assigned problems to allow practice without frustration
- ✓ Strict order of lesson: Opening—review previous instruction and state goal of current lesson; Body—model performance of the skill, prompt student to perform skill with you, check acquisition as they perform the skill independently; Close—review the lesson, preview goals for next lesson, assign independent work