



## What are the Signs of Dyscalculia?

Dyscalculia is a specific learning disability that affects a person's ability to understand numbers and math. Dyscalculia has nothing to do with intelligence, but rather how the brain is wired. Signs of dyscalculia can vary from person to person and can manifest differently depending on age and individual factors. Here are some common signs of dyscalculia by age group:

### 3-5 Years Old:

- Difficulty in recognizing patterns and organizing items in order, like smallest to largest.
- Experiences difficulty learning how to count
- Skips numbers when counting
- Struggles to connect a number to an object. For example, “2” applies to things like 2 bikes, 2 people, or 2 dogs.
- Loses track when counting

### 6-12 Years Old:

- Experiences challenge learning and recalling basic number facts, such as  $2+6=8$
- Needs to use visual aids, such as fingers, to assist with counting
- Difficulty in recognizing mathematical symbols (x, -, +, etc.)
- Struggles to understand math terms (addition, subtraction, multiplication, etc.)
- Lacks understanding of place value
- Experiences difficulties with comparing numbers, such as determining which number is larger or smaller
- Difficulty in recognizing number relationships
- Struggles with estimating quantities
- Has trouble understanding and managing time
- Difficulty in connecting numerical symbols (8) with their corresponding words (eight)
- Struggles to recognize numbers
- Experiences great difficulty when counting backward

### 13-18 Years Old:

- Experiences difficulty in understanding information on charts and graphs
- Struggles to understand geometric shapes and concepts
- Struggles to memorize math facts and apply mathematical operations consistently
- Challenges with basic arithmetic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division)
- Difficulty in understanding and following sequences, like counting and telling time
- Difficulties in following steps in mathematical procedures
- Difficulty in completing grade-level math

- Struggles to remember directions
- Forgets left and right orientations
- Shows inconsistent mathematical abilities, excelling in some areas while struggling in others
- Difficulty in solving word problems

Dyscalculia can vary in severity, and not all individuals will exhibit all of these signs. Additionally, other factors such as attention difficulties or anxiety around math can sometimes mimic the symptoms of dyscalculia. An evaluation is necessary for an accurate diagnosis.

If your child has dyscalculia, with appropriate academic accommodations and support, your child's math skills can improve over time. Additionally, students with dyslexia may be eligible for academic accommodations through an IEP or 504 plan, depending on the severity of their condition.

For assistance or questions about this process, contact [hello@loveyourschool.org](mailto:hello@loveyourschool.org). Additionally, if you have further inquiries, reach out to us. We can provide information on evaluations to see if your child has dyscalculia, school options, and programs like the [Arizona Empowerment Scholarship Account](#) program, which offers additional funds for students with dyscalculia to support their education.

**More Resources:**

[How to Spot Dyscalculia - Child Mind Institute](#)

[How to Help Kids With Dyscalculia - Child Mind Institute](#)

[Dyscalculia: Ways to help your child at home - Understood.Com](#)

[Dyscalculia - Cleveland Clinic](#)

[Math & Dyscalculia - LDOnline](#)

[Articles on Dyscalculia - Understood.Com](#)

[How to Help a Child With Dyscalculia in the Classroom - High-Speed Training](#)