

Signs of Dyscalculia at Different Ages

Signs of Dyscalculia in Preschool

- Has trouble learning to count and skips over numbers long after kids the same age can remember numbers in the right order.
- Doesn't seem to understand the meaning of counting. For example, when you ask for five blocks, he just hands you a large group of blocks, rather than counting them out.
- Struggles to recognize patterns, like smallest to largest or tallest to shortest.
- Has trouble understanding number symbols, like making the connection between "7" and the word *seven*.
- Struggles to connect a number to an object, such as knowing that "3" applies to groups of things like 3 cookies, 3 cars, or 3 kids.

Signs of Dyscalculia in Grade School

- Has difficulty learning and recalling basic math facts, such as $2 + 4 = 6$.
- Still uses fingers to count instead of using more advanced strategies (like mental math).
- Struggles to identify math signs like + and - and to use them correctly.
- Has a tough time understanding math phrases, like *greater than* and *less than*.
- Has trouble with place value, often putting numbers in the wrong column.

Signs of Dyscalculia in Middle School

- Struggles with math concepts like commutativity ($3 + 5$ is the same as $5 + 3$) and inversion (being able to solve $3 + 26 - 26$ without calculating).
- Has a tough time understanding math language and coming up with a plan to solve a math problem.
- Has trouble keeping score in sports games and gym activities.
- Has difficulty figuring out the total cost of things and often runs out of money on his lunch account.
- May avoid situations that require understanding numbers, like playing games that involve math.

Signs of Dyscalculia in High School

- Struggles to understand information on charts and graphs.
- Has trouble applying math concepts to money, such as making exact change and figuring out a tip.
- Has trouble measuring things like ingredients in a simple recipe or liquids in a bottle.
- Lacks confidence in activities that require understanding speed, distance and directions, and may get lost easily.
- Has trouble finding different approaches to a math problem, such as adding the length and width of a rectangle and doubling the answer to solve for the perimeter (rather than adding all the sides).