Strategies to Support Dyscalculia

@miss_aird

Relationships
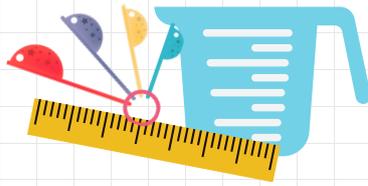
Relating math to the practicalities of daily life can help dyscalculic students make sense of concepts and see the relationships between numbers. Props like measuring cups, rulers and countable objects that students can manipulate can make math concepts less abstract.

Chunking

Dyscalculic students can easily get overwhelmed by a complex problem or concept, especially if it builds on prior knowledge — which they may not have retained. Separating a problem into its component parts and working through them one at a time can help students focus, see connections and avoid overload.

Games

Dice and board games should be played as often as possible with as much mathematical language as possible between you and the child whilst playing these games. Playing with dice will help the child to recognise the dot patterns and will encourage them to move on from counting in ones. Puzzles and problem solving activities can also be very motivational and valuable in developing mathematical understanding.
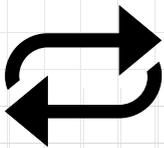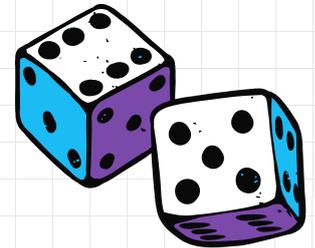
Repetition

Talking through a problem or writing it down in sentence form can help with seeing relationships between the elements. Even restating word problems in a new way can help with organizing information and seeing solutions.

Number Lines

Using number tracks and number lines will help the child to visualise the number system. It also provides a bridge between concrete materials and abstract symbols.

It is a good idea to encourage the child to visualise the mathematical concepts in their head
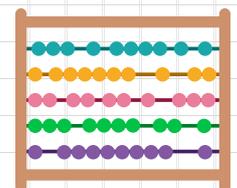
Visuals

Dyscalculic students struggle to retain maths related information, it becomes hard to master new skills that build on previous lessons.

Creating written or drawn references such as cards or diagrams can help with quick reviews.
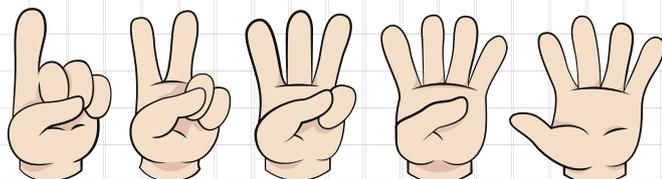
Concrete Materials

Young children are used to having cubes and beads to help support their mathematical understanding but it is important that these are not taken away too soon.

These are very useful and the wider the variety of materials that you can use the better as this will help to generalise mathematical concepts.