

# Support Strategies for Specific Learning Differences

## 9 Support strategies for Dyscalculia

Please find these strategies that may assist a child, teen or adult with Dyscalculia. It is important to stress that a **formal identification** of a specific learning difference **is not a prerequisite** for putting these support strategies in place. It is also important to note that many of the strategies below will make learning more accessible to all individuals, whether they have an SpLD or not.

In these tips sheets, you will notice that a number of strategies are recommended for more than one SpLD. This is intentional and aims to highlight the overlapping nature of SpLD's and their associated challenges. For example, a strategy listed for ADHD may work equally as well for a student with dyspraxia.

Remember, there are no hard and fast rules. Be prepared to experiment, to talk through different ideas and strategies with your child, teen or adult, and to discover what works for them.

1. **Use 'concrete' materials and hands-on multisensory methods**, e.g. cuisenaire rods, counters, etc.
2. **Point out patterns**, e.g. in multiplication tables.
3. **Explain mathematical processes** rather than just saying 'Do it like this.'
4. **Explain mistakes clearly and show how to correct them.** Don't criticise or make fun of mistakes.
5. **Don't expect or rely on rote-learning.** Many learners with SpLD have weak memory skills and won't be able to rely on memorising. It's much more useful to teach learners to use resources such as multiplication squares.
6. **Use over-learning and be prepared to repeat over and over again.**
7. **Teach through games and use topics that interest and motivate the learner.**
8. **Use everyday situations as learning opportunities**, e.g. going to the supermarket, cooking and baking, laying the table, loading the dishwasher or washing machine.
9. **Teach in a structured and cumulative way**, building up knowledge and understanding one step at a time.

