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## In The News: Dyscalculia (Response to ITV news report – 11/09/18)

A recent study by Queen's University Belfast found that 112 of 2421 pupils tested would be likely to be diagnosed with Dyscalculia if assessed. That's 4.6%! Only one of those children actually had a diagnosis.

Culturally, we do not accept that a child cannot read or write well and ensure that we tailor our teaching and provision to enable them to learn in a way that suits them best. However, it is common to hear people say, "I'm not very good at Maths" and think that this is ok. We are less ready to adapt the way we teach to ensure that everyone becomes numerate and yet life chances are significantly poorer for those who do not have basic numeracy skills. Studies have shown, for example, that whilst 48% of prisoners have dyslexic tendencies, 65% struggle with numeracy!

We know that some children are visual or kinaesthetic learners. By ensuring that the use of concrete and visual materials and strategies is encouraged at all ages and stages of learning Maths, we give most children the chance to learn in a way that helps them to make sense of number, as well as giving them the confidence to say that they are good at Maths! Here are some ideas:

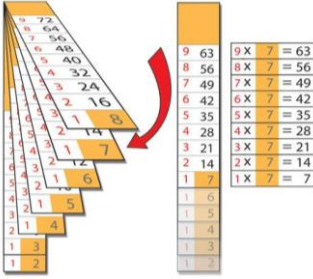
- Numicon
- Base Ten
- Cuisenaire rods
- Counters and beads
- Multilink cubes
- Number square
- Number track/Number line
- Smart Multipliers (see "Resource Review")

The Dyscalculia Assessment book not only allows schools to identify possible Dyscalculic tendencies, it also has resources and ideas for addressing children's needs. Ronit Bird has also written some "toolkit" books to provide a basis for small group intervention as well as classroom strategies.

by **Tracey Foster**

**Related Training: Dyscalculia and Difficulty with Number:**  
**Bodmin 26/11/18 Okehampton and Truro 4/12/18.**

# Resource Review: Smart Multipliers



These are perfect for ensuring your dyscalculic pupils are not held back from completing Maths problems because of the difficulty they have with grasping basic multiplication facts. Small, discrete and durable, they fit easily into a pencil case or pocket. Very easy-to-use - simply select the times table needed (from x2 to x9) by picking that number in the orange square, then flipping to that page. The times table will be listed in front of you. No more frustration (or tears). Loved by students of all ages - A must have!

£7.99 + VAT for set of 20 @ [www.smartkids.co.uk](http://www.smartkids.co.uk)

## Recent Research: Interoception

Over the last few years it has become more and more apparent that many children's well-being, learning and general behaviour can be adversely affected by how they deal with sensory input.

'The Vestibular Sense' and 'Proprioception', are now well embedded in most educationalists' vocabulary and it is widely understood that, for some children, issues with any or all of the seven senses may need to be addressed and supported. However, currently there has been a surge of interest in the topic of interoception – the so-called '8<sup>th</sup> sense' - which, due to its integral role in emotional experience and self-regulation, is also massively affecting some children.

### What is Interoception?

Interoception is the sense of knowing what is going on INSIDE our bodies, interpreting feelings such as: **hunger, thirst, tiredness, pain, temperature, the need to go to the toilet, frustration or anger.** For children with hypersensitivity to interoceptive input, typical everyday sensations e.g. hunger or need to go to the toilet may be extremely distracting and even painful; the slightest change in temperature or even hearing their own heartbeat may result in difficulty maintaining attention because they are preoccupied with the internal stimuli.

### Interoception can also be tied to emotional regulation, mood and well-being.

What's also interesting about interoception is that it goes deeper than physical sensations. The physical "overreactions" these children may experience in response to internal stimuli may also result in extreme emotional responses such as extreme anxiety, panic attacks, and other negative behaviours for apparently no reason, when actually they are responding to the intensity of these internal sensations.

Find out more...

by Sue Plechowicz

<https://www.growinghandsonkids.com/interoception-8th-sensory-system.html>

<https://theinspiredtreehouse.com/what-is-interoception/>



**Related training: Understanding and Supporting children with Sensory Integration needs Okehampton and Truro 29/11/18 Bodmin 7/12/18**

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