Does your child struggle with math? Dyscalculia could be the reason.

What is dyscalculia?

Dyscalculia = Math
Causes trouble with
— Understanding arithmetic (numbers) concepts and solving arithmetic problems
— Estimating time, measuring, and budgeting

Also called a Math Learning Disability

Dyslexia = Written language
Causes trouble with
— Spelling
— Understanding written sentences
— Recognizing printed words seen before

Also called a Reading Disability

How many people have dyscalculia?

Boys are slightly more likely to have dyscalculia than girls.

More than 2 million people

What are the risk factors for dyscalculia?

Has trouble
— Listing numbers in correct order
— Matching number words or written digits to number of objects
— Counting objects

Age 6–12
Has regular and lasting trouble
— Performing addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division appropriate to grade level
— Recognizing math errors

Age 12+
Has trouble
— Estimating (informed guessing)
— Making exact calculations
— Understanding graphs and charts
— Understanding fractions and decimals

Math anxiety (worry) is also common with dyscalculia.

How can adults reduce the risk of dyscalculia in young children?

Show the child that numbers are a normal part of everyday life.

• Mention numbers to your child while doing everyday activities—like grocery shopping or setting the table.

• Count out loud and show the child both the written number word (“three”) and digit (“3”).

• Count actual objects the child can see.

For more information about learning disabilities, visit http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/learning/conditioninfo.