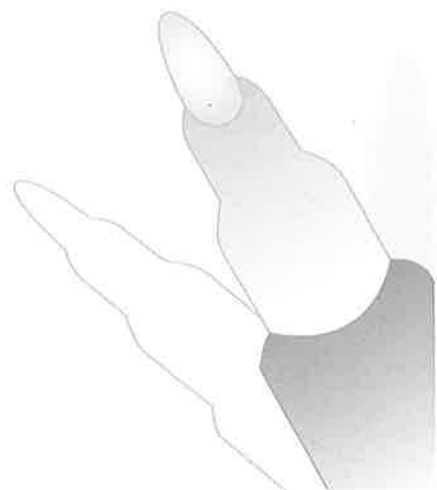




Case Study: Developmental Dyscalculia

Rio is a nine year old boy who attends his local mainstream primary school. He appears to enjoy all aspects of school and has plenty of friends. However, since reception he has experienced difficulties in all aspects of maths. Simple counting and sorting activities were from the start very difficult for Rio and he would become very frustrated and want to sit by himself and not engage in any activities that he associated with numeracy. In other areas of the curriculum Rio has always made good progress in line with his peers. His reading, writing and speaking and listening skills have always been age appropriate. Rio has had a great deal of difficulty learning his times tables and cannot yet count in two's or five's. During numeracy lessons he becomes restless and frustrated and his lack of success in this lesson is having an adverse effect on his self-esteem. His written work is untidy, his numbers are incorrectly formed and his sums are misaligned. Rio reports that his hands ache during numeracy because his frustration makes him hold his pencil too tightly. Rio's reluctance to write down any of his working out is increasing and he says that he prefers to try to work out all his maths problems in his head rather than use pencil and paper. This, however, leads to careless errors and confusion because he is unable to hold all the information he needs in his head. Rio says that he enjoys school sometimes but he would prefer not to come to school on days when he has to do sums. His mother reports that he wakes up and asks if he can stay at home on those days and says that he has a headache. Rio is becoming discouraged by his lack of ability in maths and is finding it increasingly difficult to catch up. He spends a lot of time in numeracy sessions holding his hand up to ask how to do the work. He becomes very frustrated when he loses direction and will then use avoidance strategies to avoid doing any further work. The presentation and content of Rio's numeracy work is similar to that of a much younger child.

Maths homework is a huge issue for Rio and he gets very angry and frustrated that he has to think about sums again when he gets home after lessons spent struggling with them in school.





Activity: Developmental Dyscalculia

Identify the triggers for concern that occur throughout this case study:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

List the actions that could be taken to address each of the difficulties identified in order to reduce the negative impact of Developmental Dyscalculia on Rio's development:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

