



Vocational Education & Training Research Forum  
Te Whanganui-a-Tara/Wellington, Aotearoa/NZ  
13 October 2026

## WORKSHOP



### Hidden in Plain Sight:

*Recognising and Supporting Dyscalculia  
in Vocational Education*



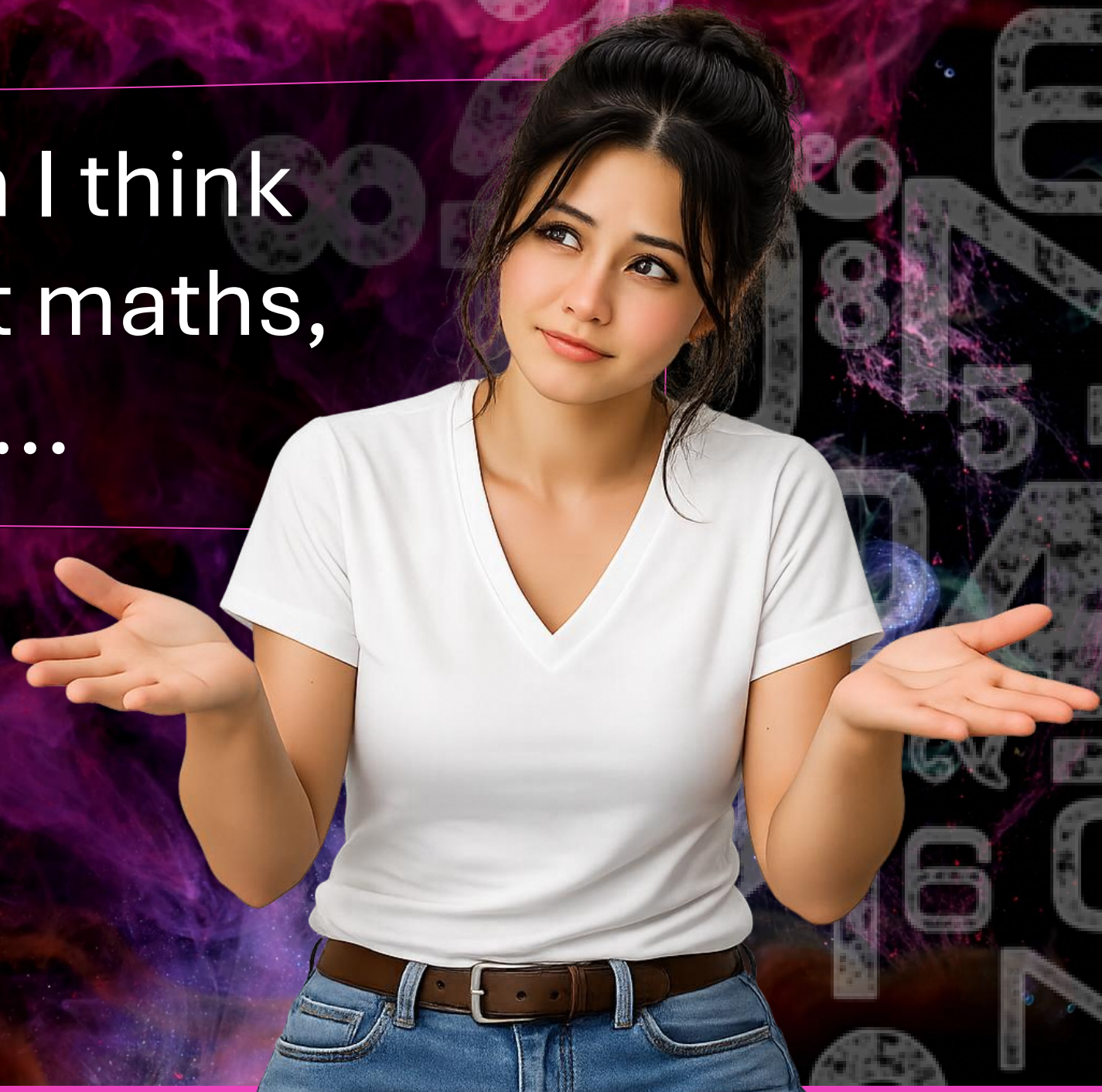
[www.dyscalculia.co.nz](http://www.dyscalculia.co.nz)



Gary & Michael

# WARM UP

When I think  
about maths,  
I feel ...



# MYTH OR FACT

- ? Dyscalculia is rare.
- ? People with dyscalculia just need more practice.
- ? Dyscalculia only affects children.
- ? Maths anxiety and dyscalculia are the same thing.
- ? People with dyscalculia will never be able to do maths.

# DEFINITION

“

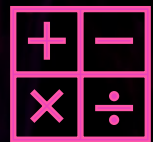
Dyscalculia is a **lifelong** neuro-developmental difference that affects how a person understands numbers and mathematical concepts.

It is **not** caused by low intelligence or poor teaching, and many people with dyscalculia develop effective ways to succeed with the right support.

”



# THE PROBLEM



**Dyscalculia**

**12%**



**Maths Anxiety**

**50+%**

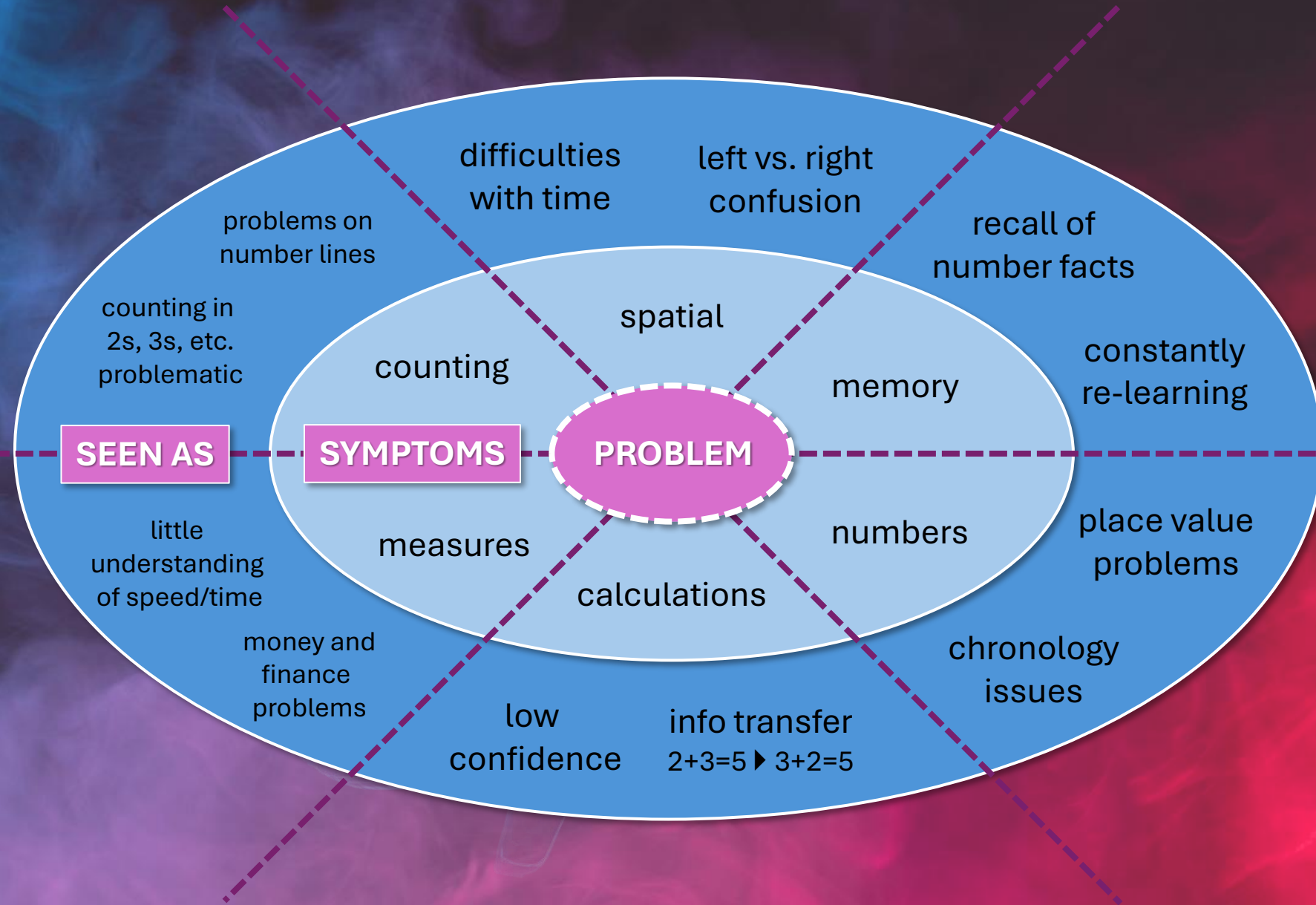


Few tools and resources



Often expensive, not accessible

# DYS CALCULIA



# HANNAH'S STORY



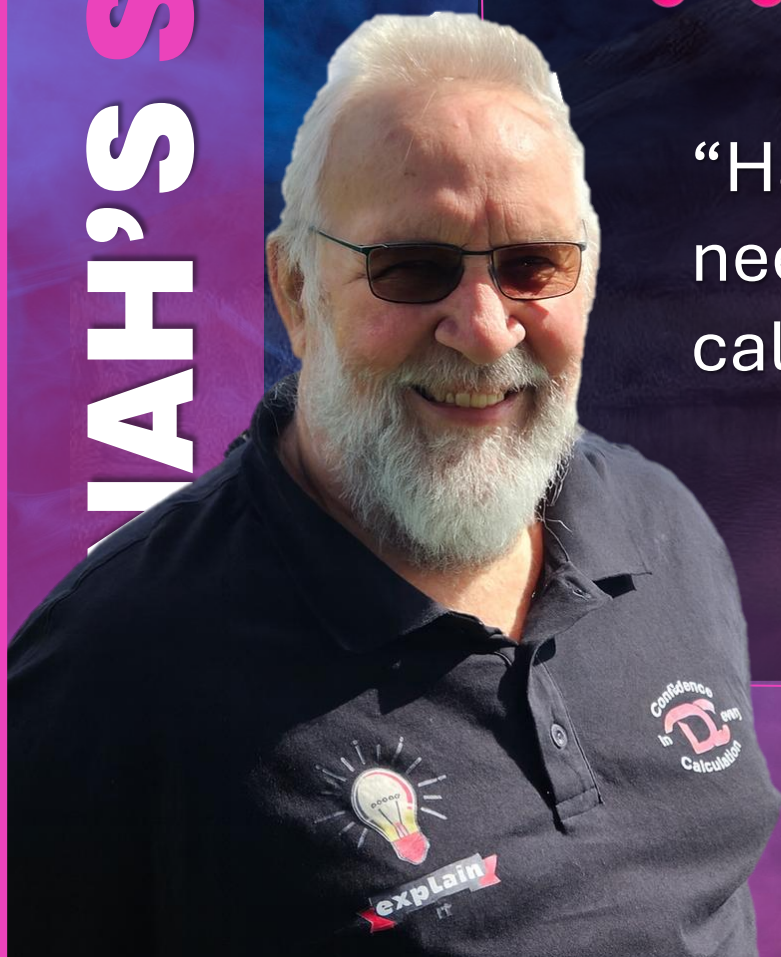
Confidence  
in **D** every  
Calculation

## The pink calculator

!?

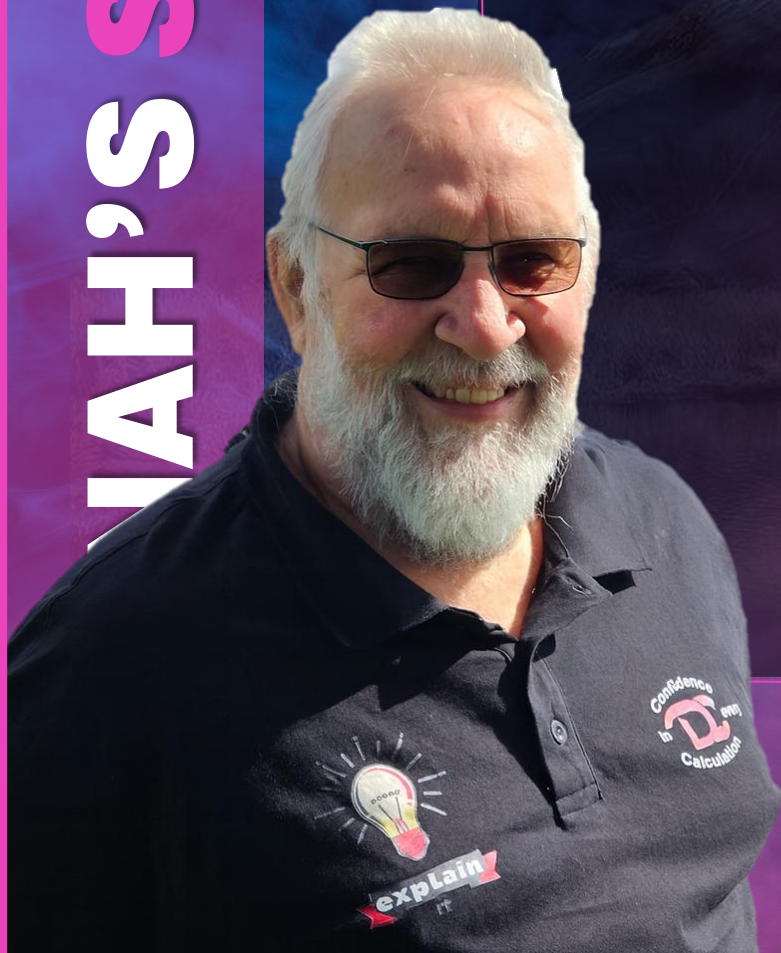
“No (you idiot!),  
I need a calculator  
**without numbers!**”

“Hannah, you  
need a **professional**  
calculator!”

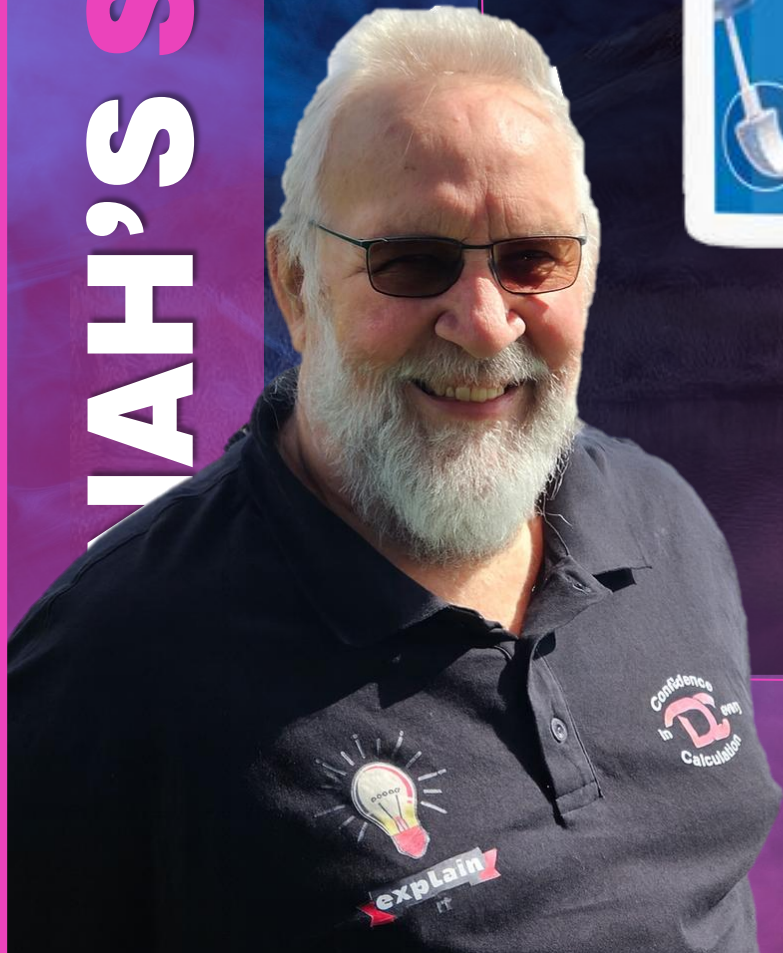


# ALIAH'S STORY

The pink calculator



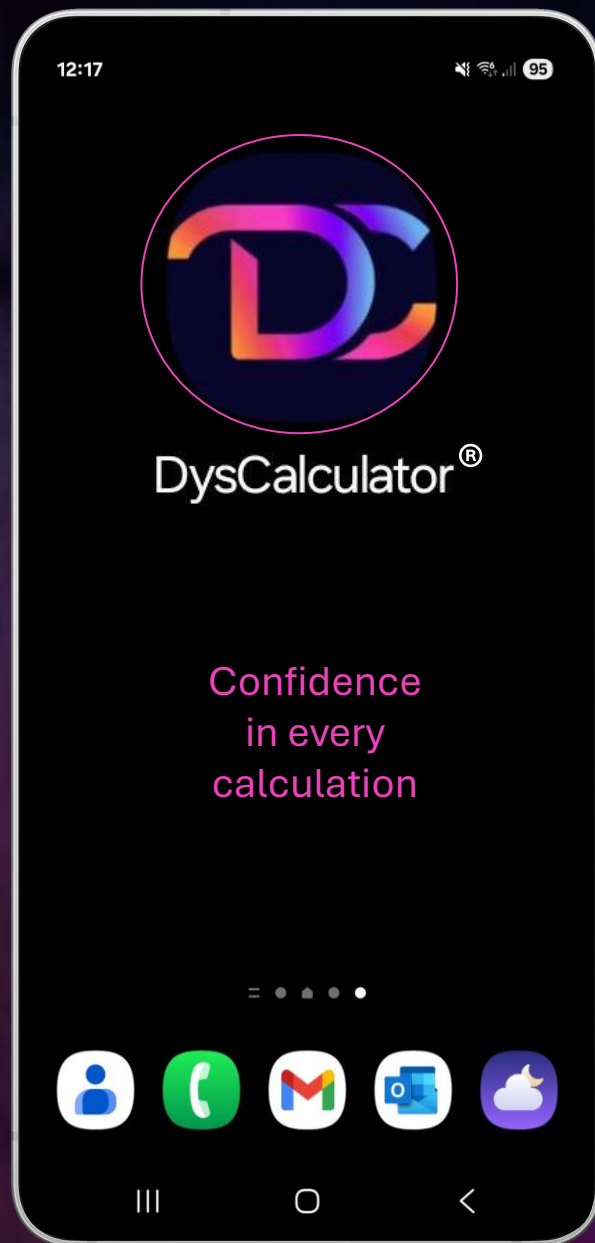
# ALIAH'S STORY



The pink calculator



# DYSCALCULATOR®



# DYSCALCULATOR®



[www.dyscalculia.co.nz](http://www.dyscalculia.co.nz)

# TESTIMONIALS

“This is not a calculator. It’s an everyday tool, and a life changer for dyscalculics.”



Cat Eadle, Co-Founder Dyscalculia Network, UK



“Not much in maths excites me anymore, but this is brilliant.”

Prof Steve Chinn, Dyscalculia Guru, UK



Australian Disability  
Clearinghouse on  
Education and Training

*Supporting you, Supporting Students*



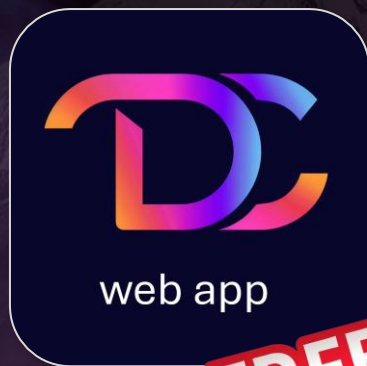
## Accessibility in Action

### AWARDS 2026

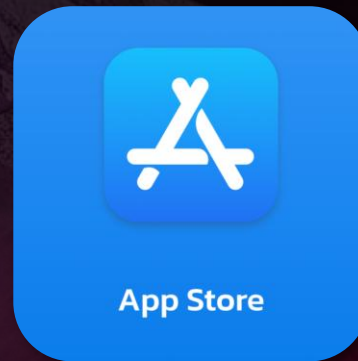
Category "Project and Team"



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT



**FREE**



[www.dyscalculator.app](http://www.dyscalculator.app)



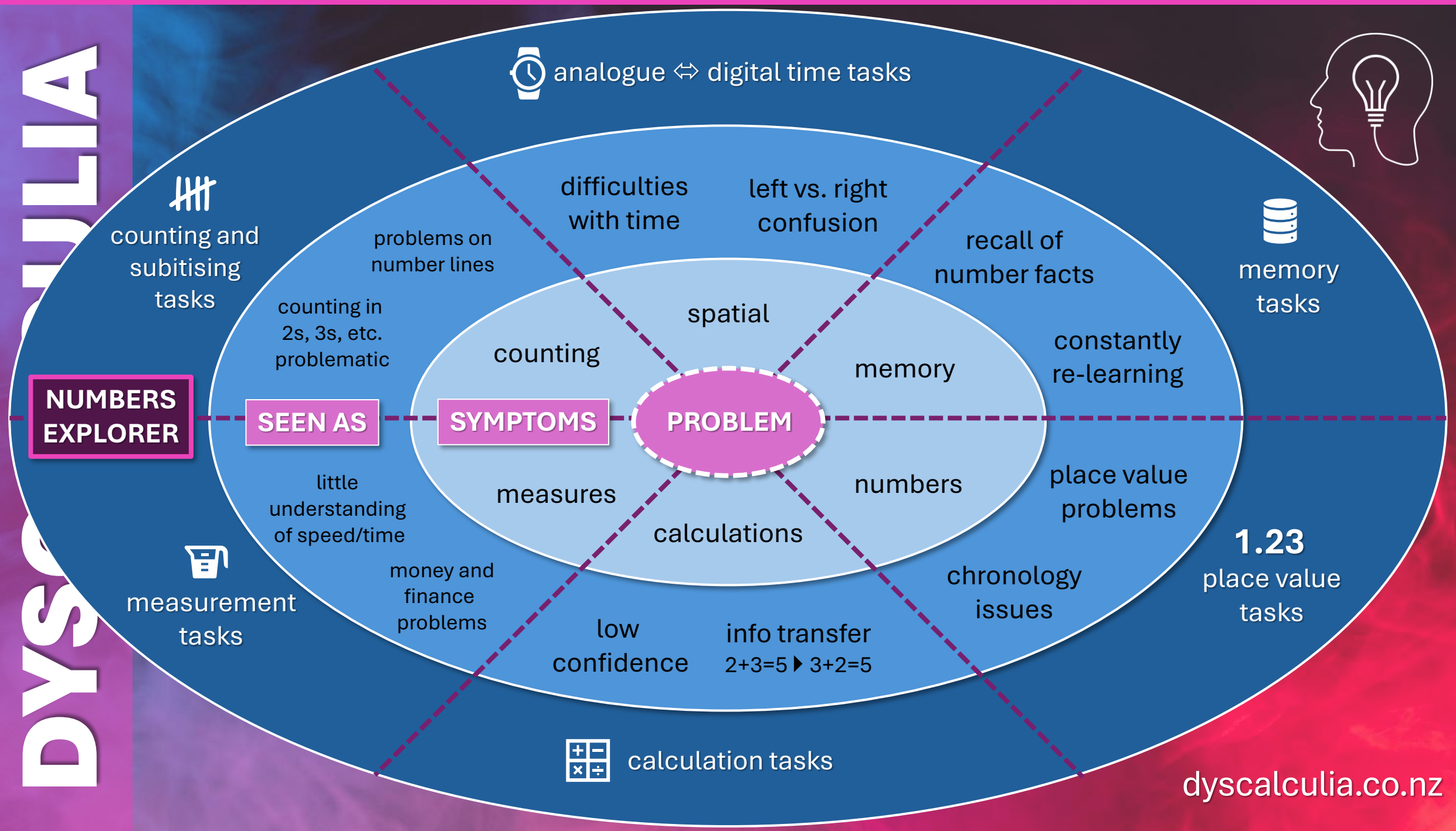
like – follow – share

**WAIT, THERE'S MORE**



One more thing...





# NUMBERS EXPLORER



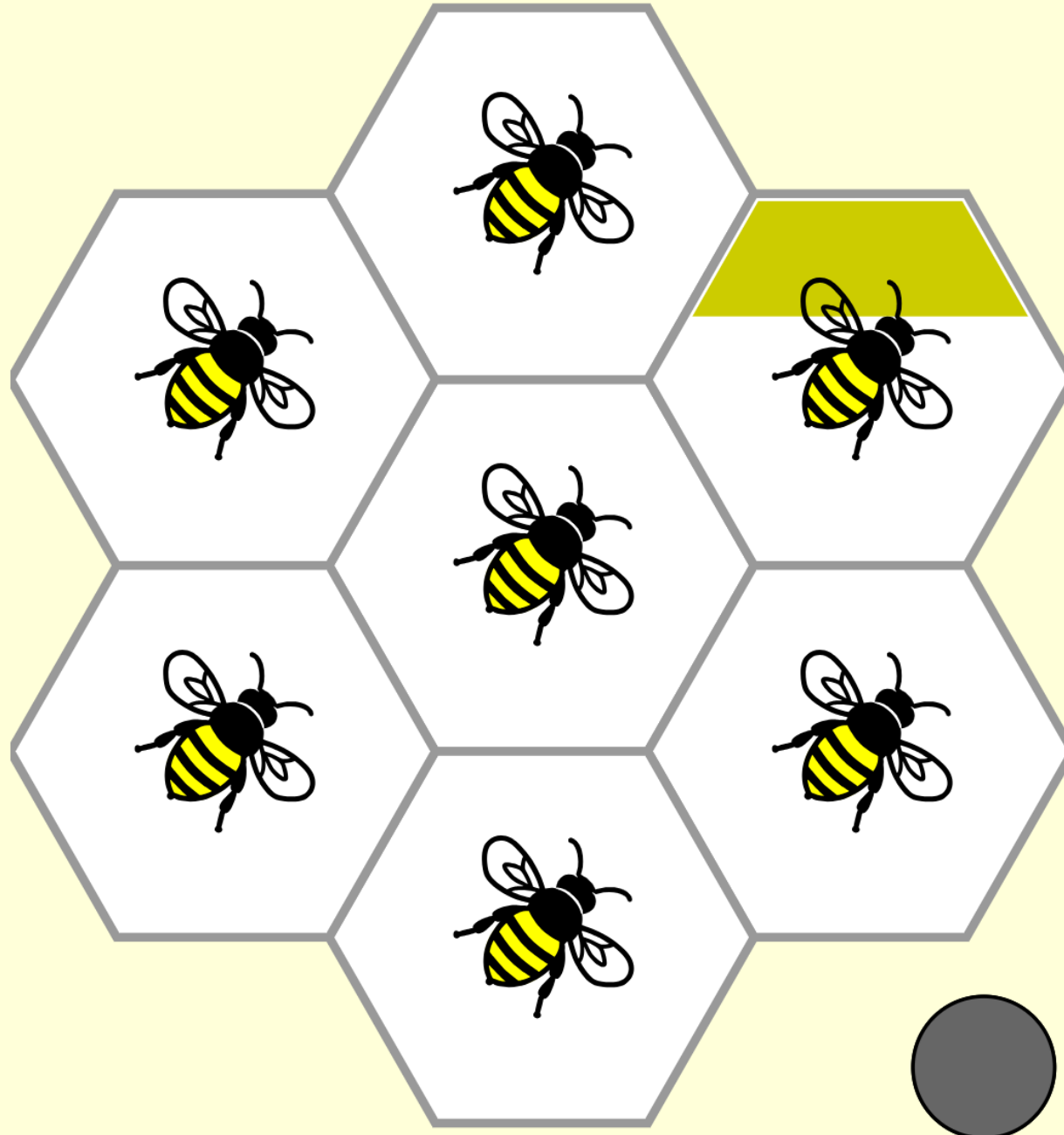
[www.numbers-explorer.com](http://www.numbers-explorer.com)



# NUMBERS EXPLORER

- ✓ for learners of all ages
- ✓ online, adaptive
- ✓ gamified, 20 min
- ✓ non-threatening

# Working Memory

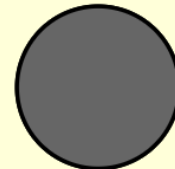


Honey, bee! 🐝

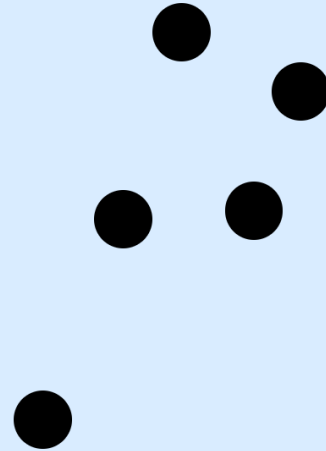


- 🔊 The hive is buzzing with activity.  
You will see **two bees** fly out of the honeycomb.  
Watch which cells they come from.  
➡ Then, tap (or click) the cells in the order the bees left.

Start

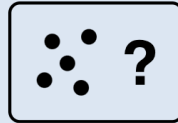


# Subitizing



$$\begin{array}{c} \bullet \\ \bullet \bullet \\ \bullet \end{array} = 6$$

## Match ups ♦



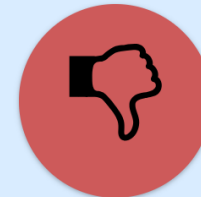
🔊 Duncan has spilled his box of dots. Now he needs help to check if he has the right number of dots.

Look carefully at each one: compare the dots you see with the number shown.

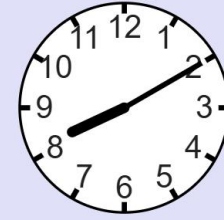
Do they match, tap **thumbs up** 👍 . If they don't, tap **thumbs down** 👎 .

Ready? Let's go!

Start



# Time



... is the same as ...

6:40

9:25

8:10

Alarm alert! 🕒



Amira has a big day tomorrow and needs to set her alarm clock. Can you help her?  
Look at the time shown, then tap the clock that matches it.

Start



## What you can do TOMORROW:



Remove **time restraints** from math tests.



Delete the words

basic

easy

simple

from your maths vocabulary.



Have a **number line** in a prominent place in the classroom.



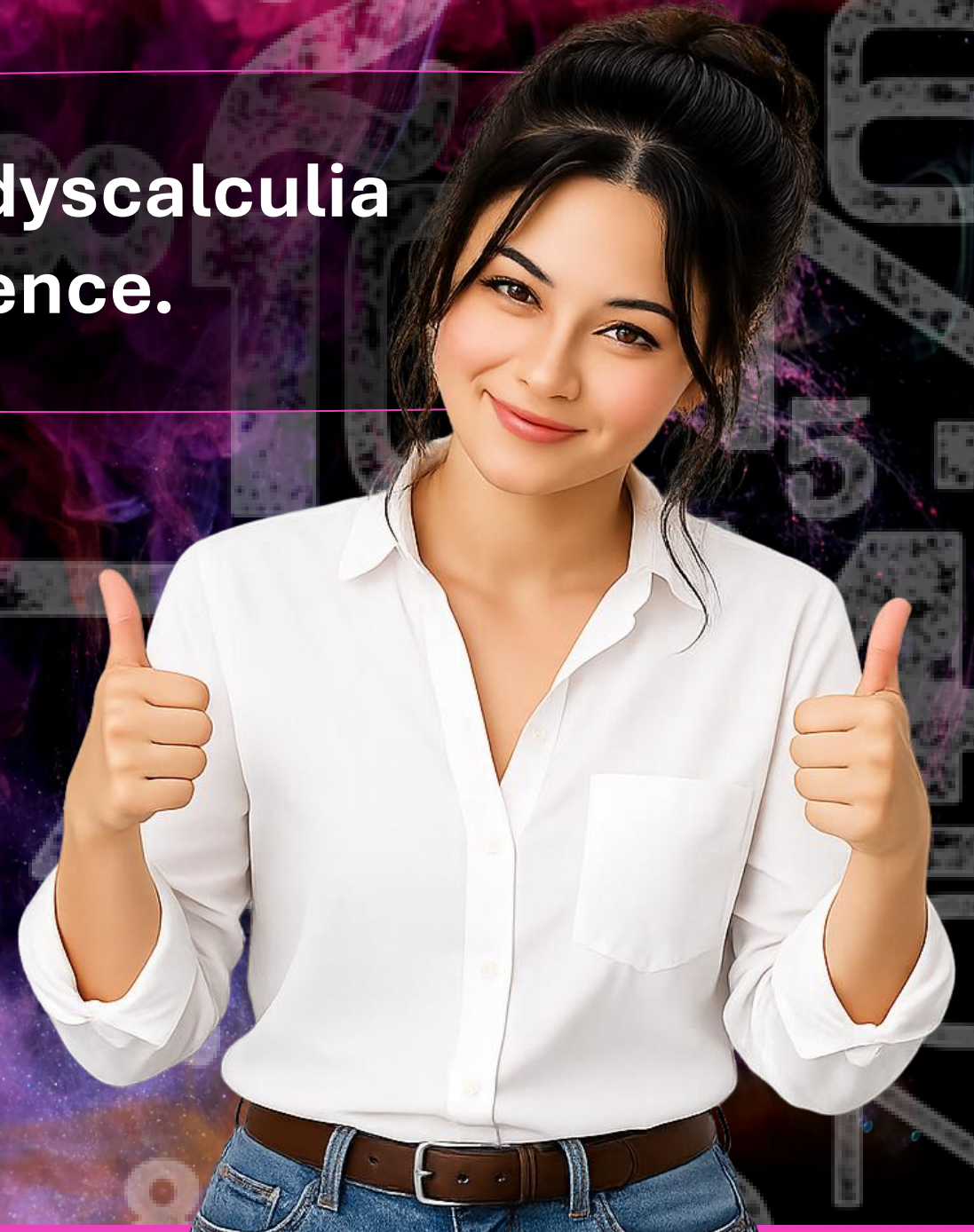
Allow **finger counting**.



# FINAL NOTE



**You don't need to be a dyscalculia expert to make a difference.**



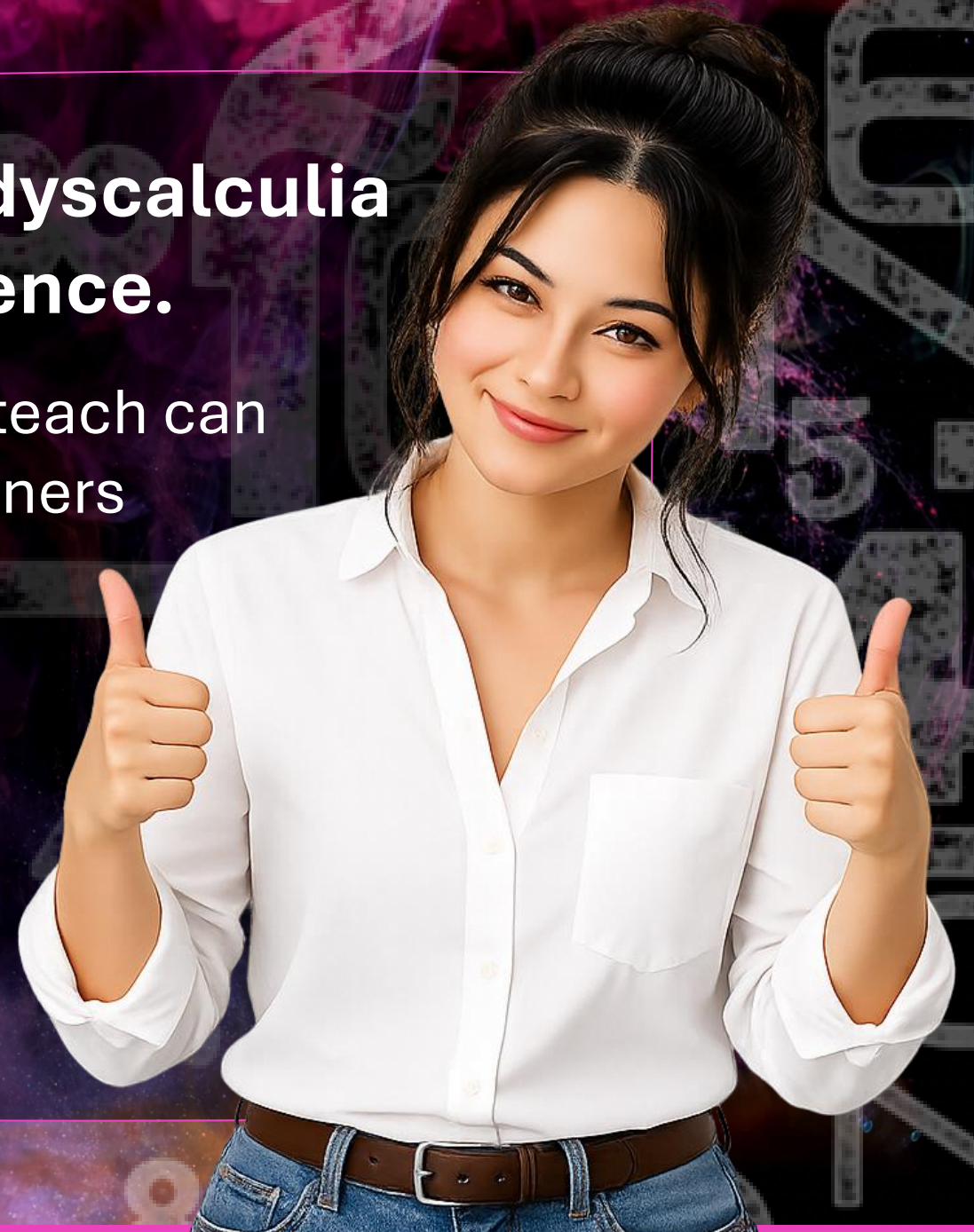
# FINAL NOTE



**You don't need to be a dyscalculia expert to make a difference.**

**Small changes** in the way we teach can have a big impact on how learners experience mathematics.

The goal isn't to remove challenge - it's to **remove unnecessary barriers** so every learner has the opportunity to succeed.



# QUESTIONS



[info@dyscalculia.co.nz](mailto:info@dyscalculia.co.nz)