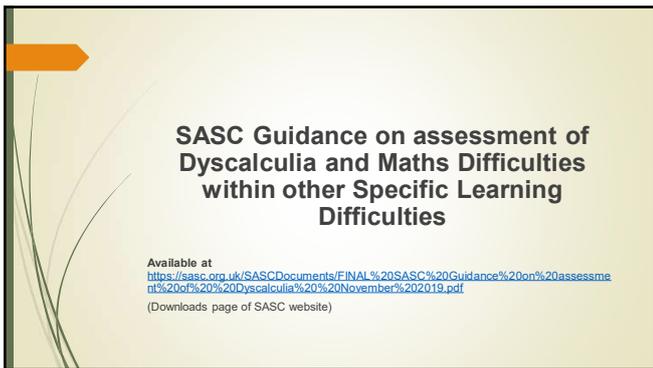


1



2



3



Growing evidence of a **domain specific ability** to perceive and manipulate *discrete quantities* (quantities that must be divided into units/numbers and are not continuous).

Distinct from other domain general cognitive abilities.

= **sense of number** or **number sense**

(Henik et al 2017, Sharma 2015, Karagiannakis et al 2014, Kaufman et al 2013, Landerl et al 2013, Butterworth & Laurillard 2010).

4



Dyscalculia is a specific and persistent difficulty in understanding numbers which can lead to a diverse range of difficulties with mathematics. It will be unexpected in relation to age, level of education and experience and occurs across all ages and abilities.

Mathematics difficulties are best thought of as a continuum, not a distinct category, and they have many causal factors. Dyscalculia falls at one end of the spectrum and will be distinguishable from other mathematics issues due to the severity of difficulties with number sense, including subitising, symbolic and non-symbolic magnitude comparison, and ordering. It can occur singly but can also co-occur with other specific learning difficulties, mathematics anxiety and medical conditions.

5



What Is Sense Of Number?

Definitions vary

Potentially as many as **30** components of number sense

Berch (2005).

6

4 areas are commonly listed as being crucial in identifying a deficit in sense of number as opposed to poor arithmetical skills.

All 4 areas are equally important within an assessment

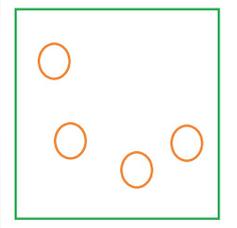
7

1. Subitising

The ability to rapidly and accurately recognise the number of objects in a small group without having to mentally or physically count them.

8

Ability to subitise is commonly assessed through dot arrays.



9

2. Non-symbolic Magnitude Comparison

Ability to compare **objects** or **groups of objects**, to recognise **differences in size or quantity** and identify which is **greater or lesser**.

10

Non-symbolic magnitude comparison is commonly assessed using **dot arrays**, or **pictures of groups of objects**.



11

3. Symbolic Magnitude Comparison

Ability to compare **symbols which represent quantities** (eg Arabic numerals) to recognise **differences in quantity** and identify which is **greater or lesser**.

7 3

Can be

- ▶ **Single digit** numbers or
- ▶ **Compositional numbers** (multi-digit whole numbers, fractions, decimals).

12

4. Ordering (Cardinality and Ordinality)

Cardinality - "how many" items there are in a set with similar properties (e.g. 5 apples and 4 pears, or 9 pieces of fruit)

Ordinality - position of an item or number relative to other items or numbers within a series

Gifford (2018).

13

Relationship With Arithmetic

Subitising, non-symbolic and symbolic magnitude comparison, and ordering

form the basis on which arithmetic knowledge and strategies are then built.

14

Rote Learning v Understanding

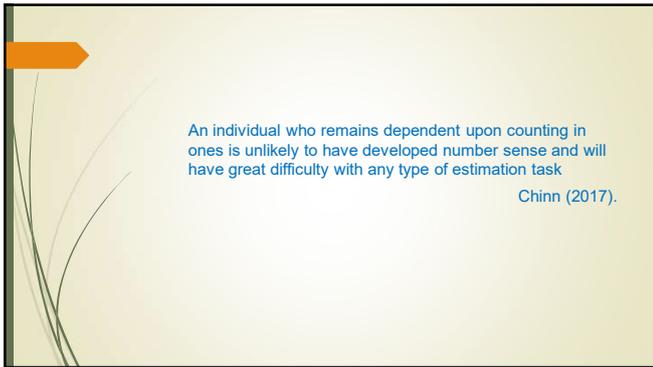
Can rote learn arithmetic without a sense of number
 But sense of number makes it possible

- to **estimate** and
- to **transfer** knowledge, strategies and procedures from one situation/context to another.

Eg
 $6 \times 5 = 30$ $30 = 6 \times ?$ 6 people each have £5, how much money do they have altogether?

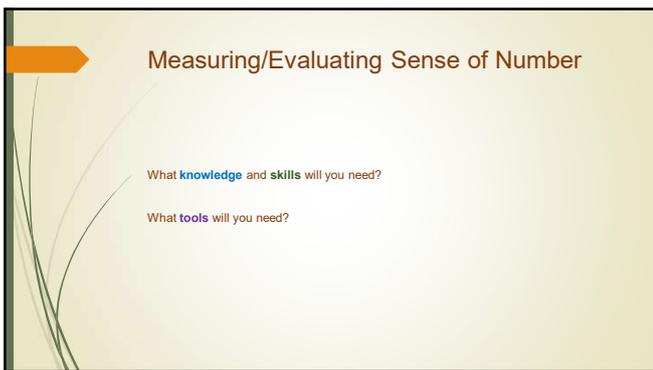
So Number Sense contributes to **efficiency** in mathematical procedures

15



An individual who remains dependent upon counting in ones is unlikely to have developed number sense and will have great difficulty with any type of estimation task
Chinn (2017).

16

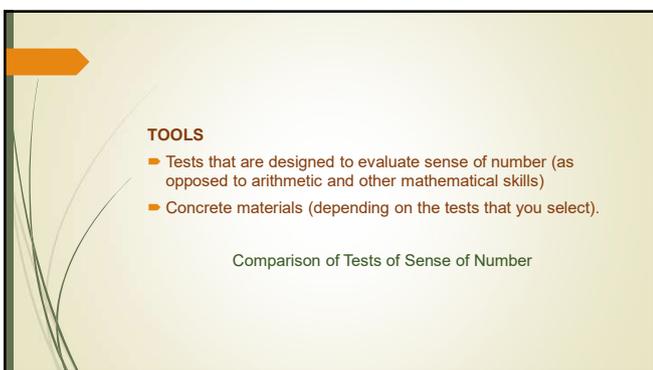


Measuring/Evaluating Sense of Number

What **knowledge** and **skills** will you need?

What **tools** will you need?

17

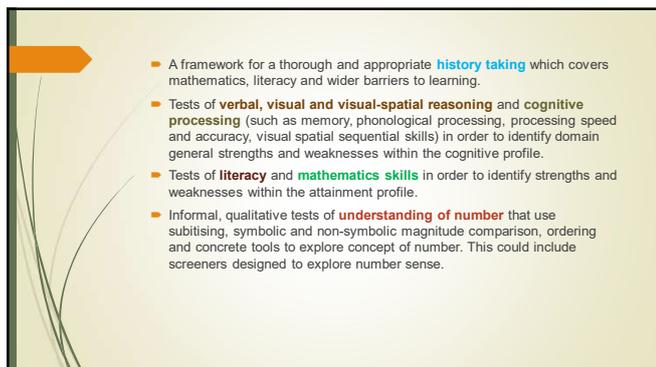


TOOLS

- Tests that are designed to evaluate sense of number (as opposed to arithmetic and other mathematical skills)
- Concrete materials (depending on the tests that you select).

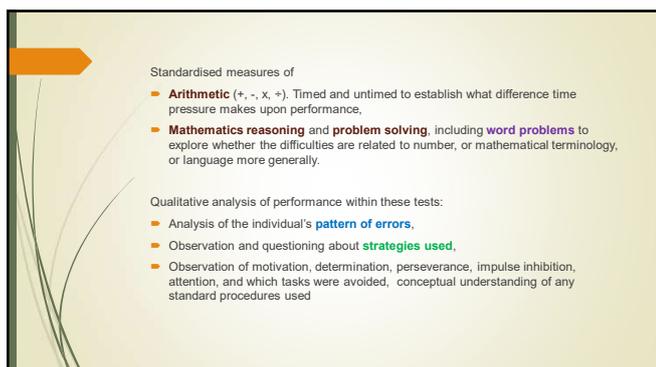
Comparison of Tests of Sense of Number

18



- A framework for a thorough and appropriate **history taking** which covers mathematics, literacy and wider barriers to learning.
- Tests of **verbal, visual and visual-spatial reasoning** and **cognitive processing** (such as memory, phonological processing, processing speed and accuracy, visual spatial sequential skills) in order to identify domain general strengths and weaknesses within the cognitive profile.
- Tests of **literacy** and **mathematics skills** in order to identify strengths and weaknesses within the attainment profile.
- Informal, qualitative tests of **understanding of number** that use subitising, symbolic and non-symbolic magnitude comparison, ordering and concrete tools to explore concept of number. This could include screeners designed to explore number sense.

28



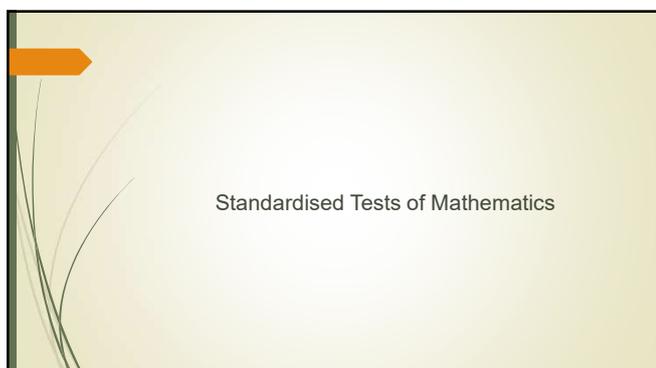
Standardised measures of

- **Arithmetic** (+, -, x, ÷). Timed and untimed to establish what difference time pressure makes upon performance.
- **Mathematics reasoning and problem solving**, including **word problems** to explore whether the difficulties are related to number, or mathematical terminology, or language more generally.

Qualitative analysis of performance within these tests:

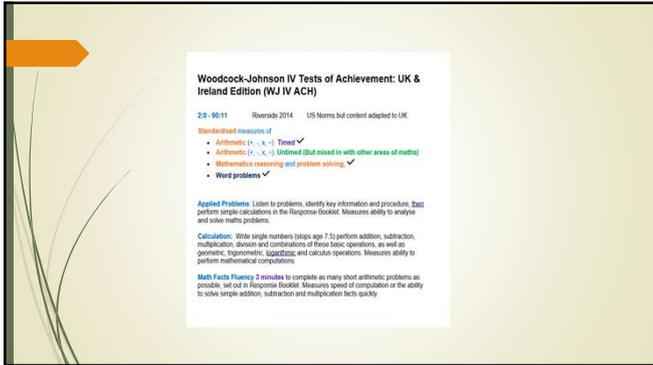
- Analysis of the individual's **pattern of errors**.
- Observation and questioning about **strategies used**.
- Observation of motivation, determination, perseverance, impulse inhibition, attention, and which tasks were avoided, conceptual understanding of any standard procedures used

29



Standardised Tests of Mathematics

30



Woodcock-Johnson IV Tests of Achievement: UK & Ireland Edition (WJ IV ACH)

2-9 - 96-11 Riverside 2014 US Norms but content adapted to UK

Standardised measure of

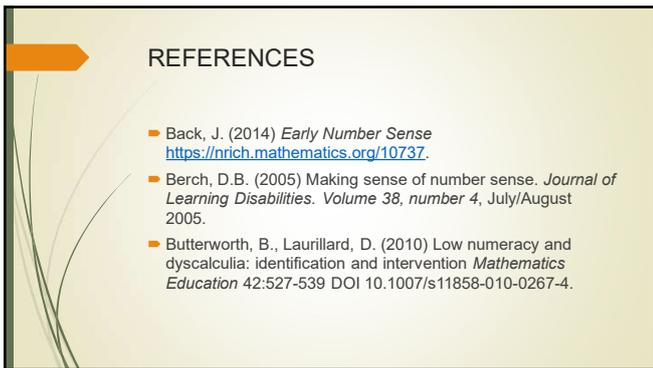
- Arithmetic (+, -, x, ÷) Timed ✓
- Arithmetic (+, -, x, ÷) Untimed (But assessed in with other areas of maths)
- Mathematical reasoning and problem solving ✓
- Word problems ✓

Applied Problems: Listen to problems, identify key information and procedures, then perform simple calculations in the Response booklet. Measures ability to analyse and solve maths problems.

Calculation: Write single numbers (steps age 7-5) perform addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and combinations of these basic operations, as well as geometric, trigonometric, logarithmic and calculus operations. Measures ability to perform mathematical computations.

Math Facts Fluency: 2 minutes to complete as many short arithmetic problems as possible, set out in Response booklet. Measures speed of computation or the ability to solve simple addition, subtraction and multiplication facts quickly.

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REFERENCES

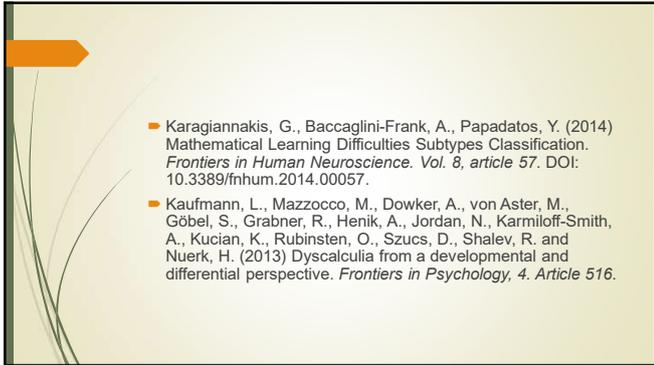
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