

# Numeracy Intervention

## What is Numeracy?

Numeracy is the ability to use mathematical concepts and skills efficiently to meet the general demands of day-to-day life and to make sense of the world. This refers to the capacity to:

- Use a combination of numerical, spatial, graphical, statistical and algebraic mathematical thinking and strategies.
- Use mathematics to interpret information or to solve practical problems.
- Choose mathematical skills and strategies that make sense in particular circumstances.
- Apply mathematical knowledge appropriately in a range of contexts where mathematical reasoning is required.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of actions and judge what is reasonable.

## When to refer for numeracy intervention?

At school, numeracy is a fundamental component of learning across all areas of the curriculum. Poor performance or underachievement in the subject of Mathematics is just one indicator that a student is having difficulty with numeracy and requires intervention. Other areas of difficulty that may indicate the need for intervention include:

- Not knowing which of two digits is larger.
- Poor counting strategies.
- Poor fluency in identification of numbers.
- Inability to add simple single-digit numbers mentally.
- Lack of understanding of mathematical terms.
- Confusion over printed symbols and signs.
- Poor memory of number facts.
- Difficulty solving basic Maths calculations using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- Trouble in applying their knowledge and skills to solve Maths problems.
- Weakness in visual-spatial skills, where a person may understand the required Maths facts but has difficulty putting them down on paper in an organised way.
- Frequent reversal of single figures and tens and units. (eg 34 written as 43)
- Poor mathematical concept development

## **What does a Numeracy Intervention Program involve?**

### **Assessment**

A comprehensive initial numeracy assessment is used to discover how a student understands and uses numbers and Mathematics to solve everyday and more complex problems. This process will identify a student's strengths and weaknesses, identifying specific cognitive processes and mathematical skills the child is experiencing difficulty with. A detailed report will provide recommendations for a remediation program as well as outline strategies for teachers and parents to help the student learn Mathematics more effectively.

### **Intervention and/or remediation**

Following an initial assessment, an individualised program will be created to target specific numeracy skills and cognitive processes identified as areas of need. The program is implemented by a registered psychologist through regular sessions at the clinic, complemented by weekly homework activities.

### **Evaluation and Monitoring**

After each ten week program, an assessment will be conducted to monitor the student's progress and evaluate the program. A short report will be provided.

## **How much does an intervention program cost?**

- An initial consultation and numeracy assessment costs \$250\*.
- Intervention and monitoring sessions cost \$100 per hour\*.

\*As the programs are implemented by a registered psychologist, private health fund rebates may be available depending on the fund and level of cover.

## **Appointments**

Appointments are currently available at the Lindfield Speech Pathology and Learning Centre on Saturdays from 9am-5pm.

For more information or to make an appointment, please contact Katrina on 8467 4800