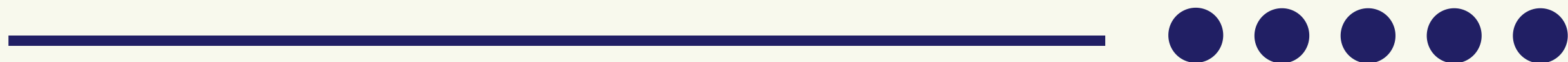




Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, & Dyscalculia

Understanding and Supporting Students with Learning Differences

Presented by Dana Huss



About Me

Dana Huss, Certified Dyslexia Tutor

Owner | COO, Growth Reading Center

Wife to a Serial Entrepreneur with dyslexia

- Growth Construction
- Growth Real Estate
- Growth Publishing

Mom to two sons with dyslexia

Teacher for over 25 years

Dyslexia Tutor since 2006

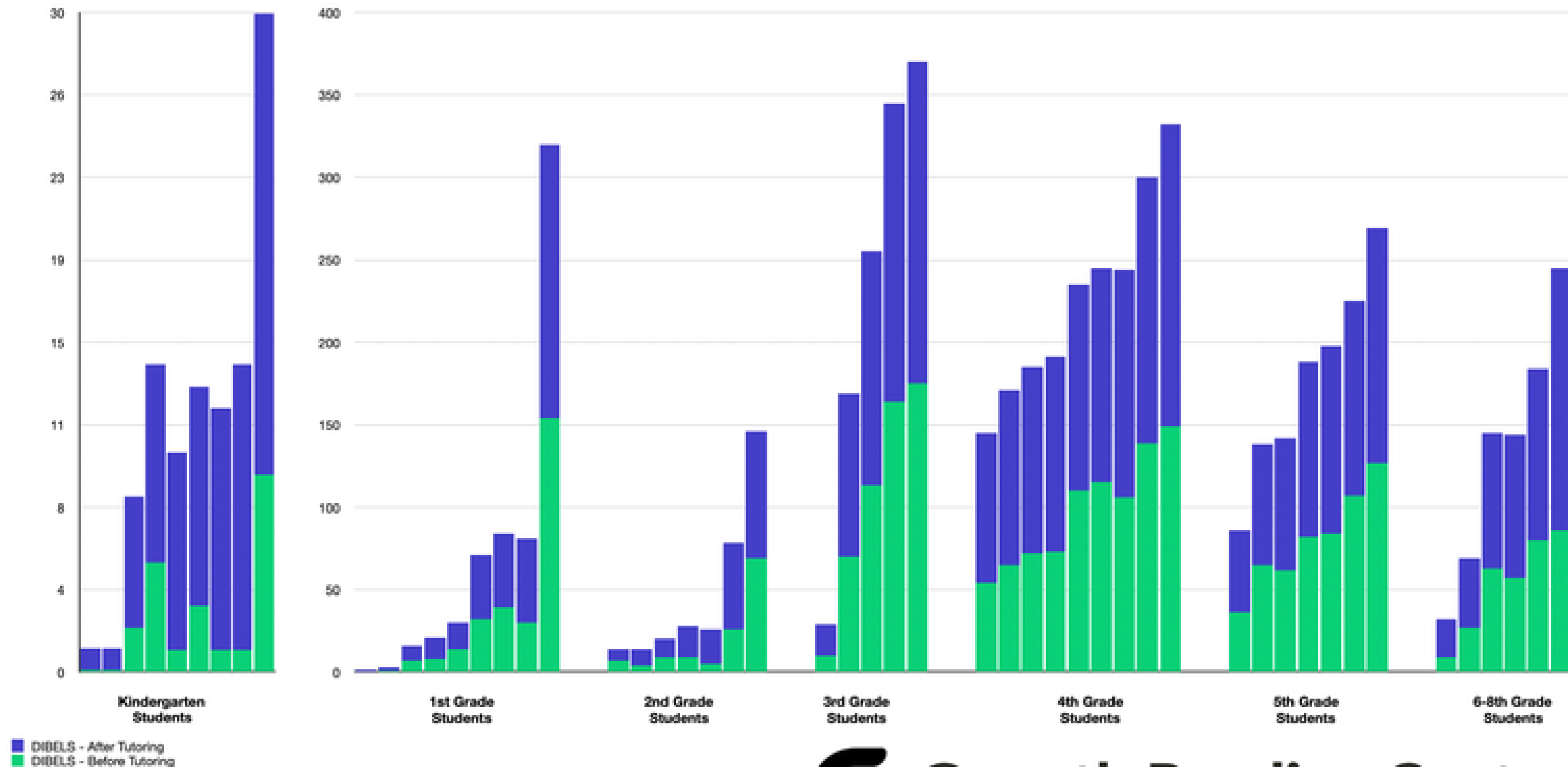
Facilitator of Literacy Lifeline

C-SLDS (in Process)



There is hope

CWPM* Before Tutoring and After
52 Students - Average 21 Sessions



*CWPM = Correct Words Per Minute
*Each blue & green column represents one student's reading growth.
*Each student was administered DIBELS before tutoring with Growth Reading Center and then again at the end of their time with us. The average number of lessons that each student attended was 21.



Growth Reading Center

Please send me the slides or information
about upcoming resources



Specific Learning Disorder in...



Reading - Dyslexia:

Difficulty with phonological awareness, decoding, fluency, and spelling that affects reading ability.

Writing - Dysgraphia

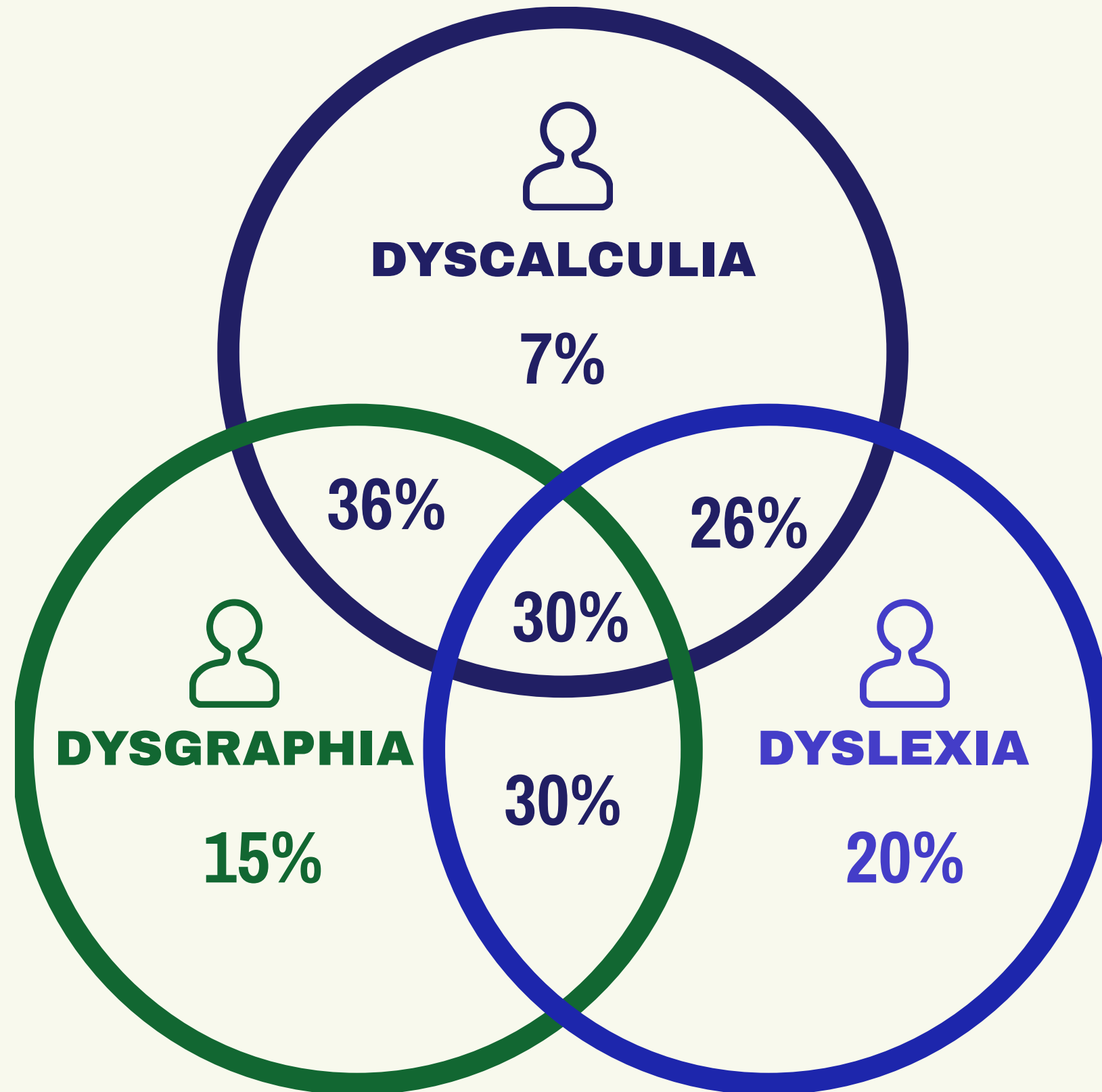
Struggles with handwriting, spelling, and organizing thoughts in written form.

Math - Dyscalculia

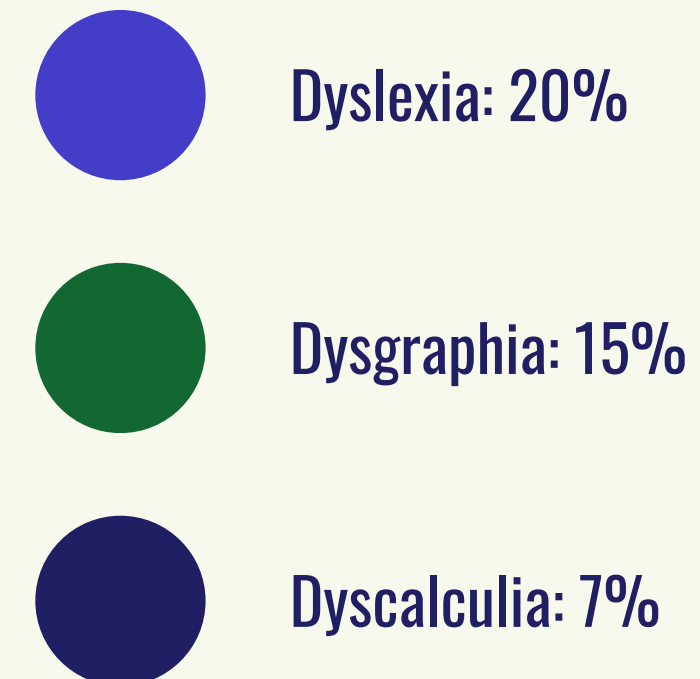
Challenges with number sense, math facts, calculations, and understanding mathematical concepts and relationships.



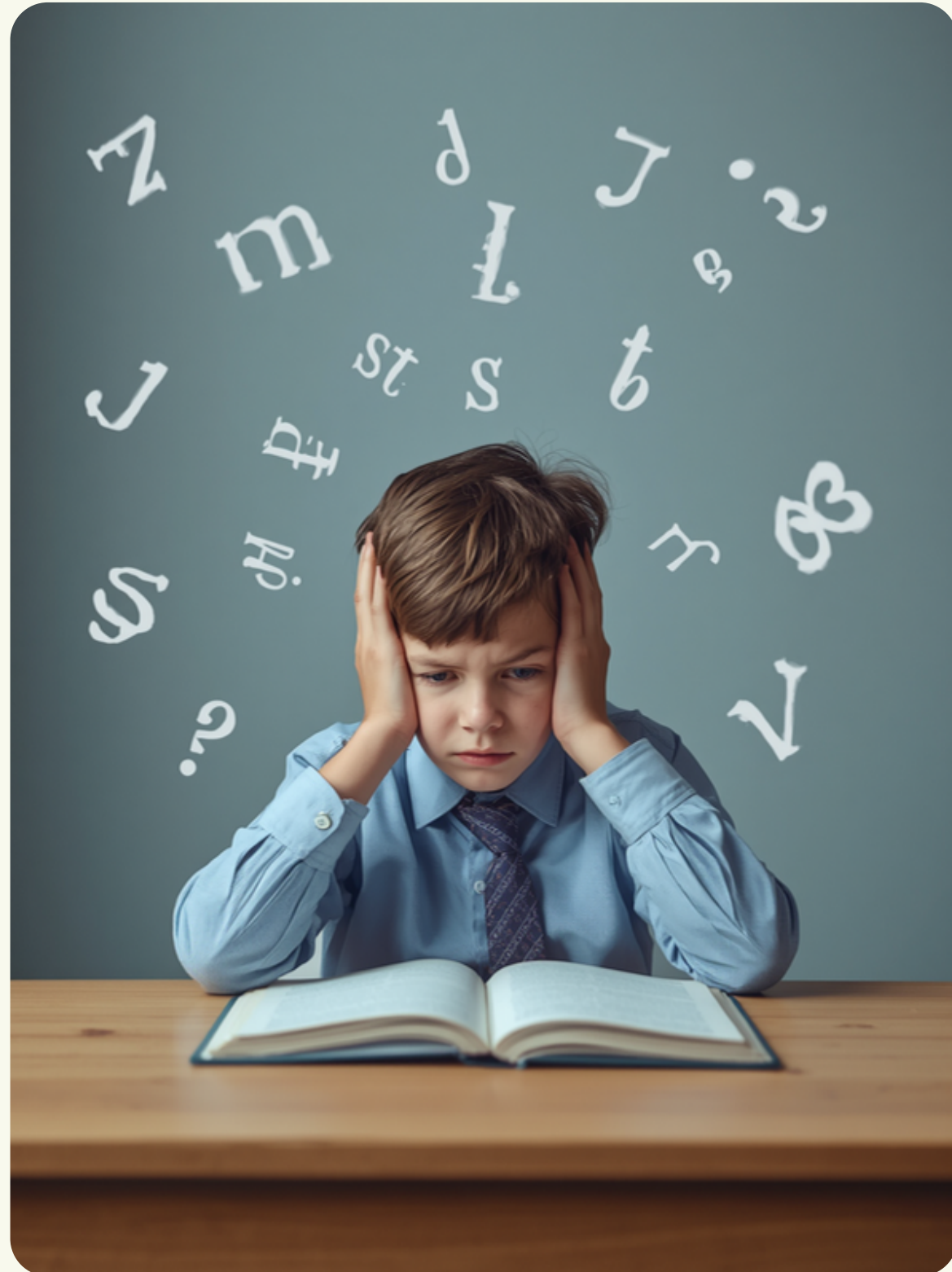
Comorbidity



Many students have overlapping challenges. Research shows significant comorbidity rates between learning differences, with 26-36% of students experiencing multiple conditions simultaneously.



Dyslexia – Key Characteristics



Reading & Decoding:

Phonological awareness difficulties

Slow and inaccurate reading & decoding

Spelling & Comprehension:

Poor spelling and written expression

Reading comprehension challenges

Language & Behavior:

Word retrieval and vocabulary difficulties

Avoidance of reading tasks due to frustration

Dysgraphia – Key Characteristics

Handwriting & Motor Skills:

Poor handwriting and inconsistent letter formation

Slow writing speed and difficulty with fine motor control

Spelling & Grammar:

Persistent spelling difficulties despite instruction

Inconsistent grammar and punctuation usage

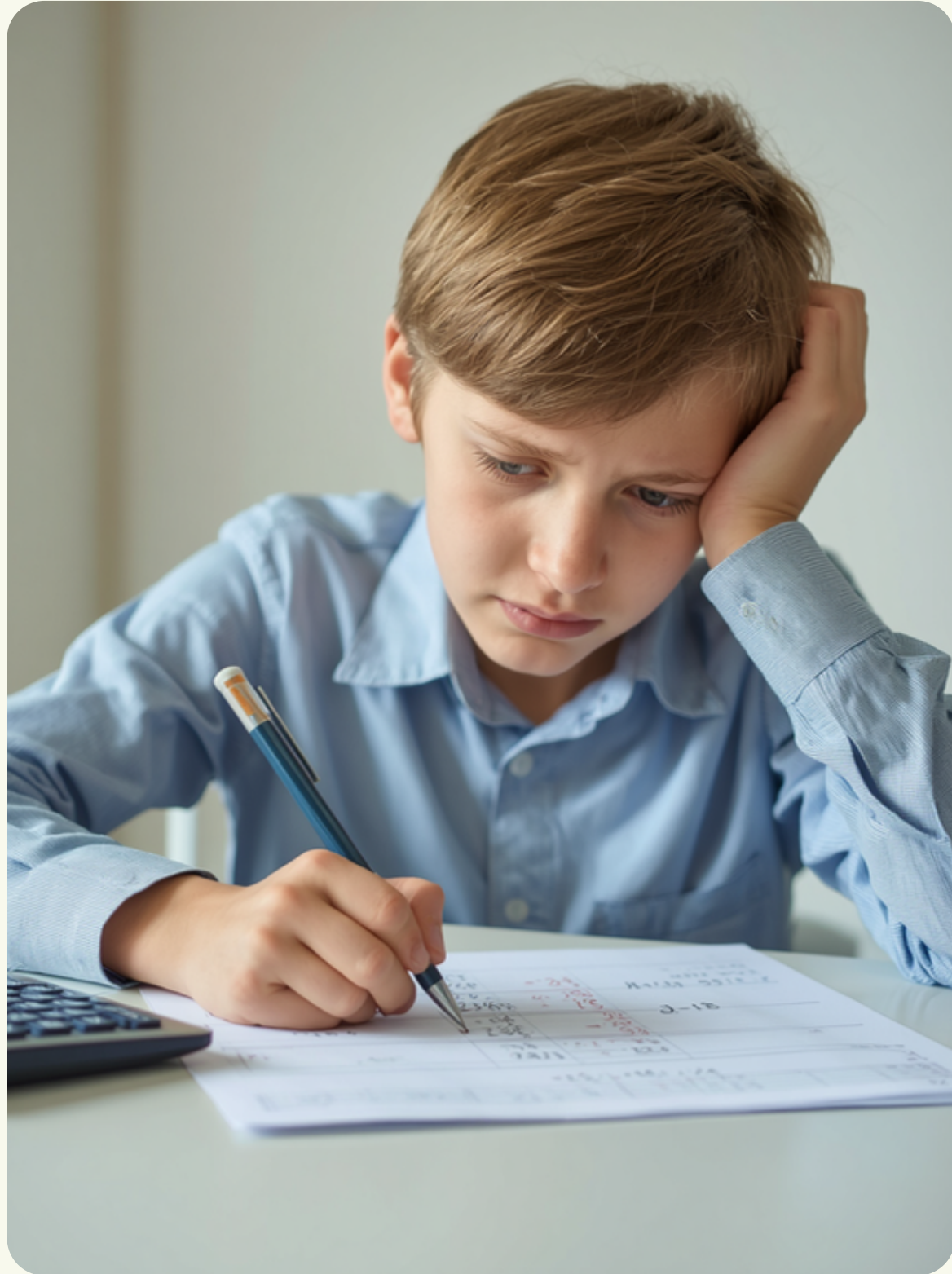
Organization & Behavior:

Trouble organizing thoughts on paper

Avoidance of writing tasks due to frustration



Dyscalculia – Key Characteristics



Number Sense Difficulties:

Difficulty understanding numbers and math concepts

Poor recall of basic math facts

Calculation Challenges:

Struggles with calculations and problem-solving

Difficulty telling time and managing money

Emotional Impact:

Trouble with word problems and multi-step math

Math anxiety and avoidance of math tasks

Overlapping Symptoms

Shared Challenges Across Learning Differences

- Poor memory for sequences
- Organizational difficulties
- Slow processing speed
- Avoidance of academic tasks due to frustration/anxiety

These overlapping symptoms often complicate identification and support, requiring comprehensive assessment.



Curriculum Options

Reading & Spelling (Dyslexia):

- Orton-Gillingham - multisensory, structured literacy approach
- UFLI Foundations - systematic phonics instruction
- All About Spelling - mastery-based spelling curriculum

Writing (Dysgraphia):

- Handwriting Without Tears - developmentally appropriate handwriting instruction
- Writing Revolution - explicit writing instruction using the Hochman Method

Math (Dyscalculia):

- Touch Math - multisensory math program using touch points
- Times Tales - story-based multiplication facts memorization



Teaching Supports



Materials & Environment

Large print materials
Reading Strips
Audiobooks & text-to-speech
Reduced visual clutter



Tools & Resources

Pencil grips for better control
Raised-line & graph paper
Typed notes provided
Speech-to-text software



Accommodations

Extra time on assignments
Reduced copying requirements
Audio recording options
Dictation

Instruction & Assessment



Teaching Strategies

Pre-teach vocabulary and key concepts
Provide outlines and study guides
Break complex tasks into steps



Assessment Options

Allow ways to demonstrate knowledge.
Offer oral responses and scribing
Focus on content mastery



Support Strategies

Grade for knowledge
Provide a quiet space for testing
Allow extended time/frequent breaks

Dyscalculia Supports



Tools:

Manipulatives, visual aids, graph paper, and calculators (when appropriate) help make abstract math concepts concrete and accessible.

Organization:

Use checklists, graphic organizers, and regular checkpoints to support planning and self-monitoring.



Strategies:

Connect math to real-life situations students understand. Provide step-by-step instructions and break problems into manageable parts.



Final Takeaway



**With the right supports and understanding, these students
don't just succeed — they thrive and bring
incredible value to the world.**



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