

Creating Meaningful Assessments & Interventions for Students with Math-Related Disabilities

Summary of Key Ideas

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1 - What is a Math Disability - Like Really?

Math disabilities are hard to define in meaningful ways that actually support assessment and intervention.

Math disabilities are brain based – students with math disabilities have difficulty learning and doing math because their brains process information differently.

Most real-time math struggles can be attributed to five core challenges: Calculation, visual processing, executive functioning, anxiety, and cognitive overload.

2 - How to Conduct Meaningful Assessments

Without a grounded understanding of math disabilities, assessment can feel abstract, score-based, and disconnected from actual math struggles.

Meaningful assessment and diagnosis happen when real world connections are made between a student's neuropsychological challenges and their math difficulties.

An assessment is an opportunity to tell a story by connecting a student's core learning challenges to their actual math difficulties.

3 - How to Create Meaningful Interventions & Supports

It's hard to find and select math interventions and supports that actually help students with math disabilities.

Students with math disabilities can thrive in math when they receive support that helps them to overcome the core challenges that prevent them from learning.

Meaningful supports give students access to instruction by addressing the barriers that prevent them from learning.