

Maths learning difficulties

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Contemporary approaches to explaining maths under achievement describe the learning characteristics of maths underachievers :

- psychological descriptive approach - psychological difficulties that occur with maths difficulties.
- error analysis approach focuses on the types of errors made by students.
- neuropsychological approach links maths difficulties to neurological disorders- dyscalculia.
- information-processing approach links verbal, memory and perceptual processing with maths difficulties.

These four approaches focus on students in isolation rather than on students in terms of student - teaching interactions in their past and current learning situations.

Mis-match between maths performance and teaching. The mis-match can occur in several areas.

- in the types of information students are expected to manipulate .
- in the ways in which students go about learning..
- in what they know automatically.
- in their motivation to learn maths