



DYSCALCULIA TUTOR

Vetting Checklist

MindBridge Math Mastery

Specialized Math Support for Neurodiverse Learners

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Why This Checklist Matters

Finding a qualified dyscalculia tutor isn't like finding a general math tutor. Your child needs someone with specialized training in how dyscalculia works and evidence-based interventions that address it.

This checklist helps you:



Separate true specialists from well-meaning generalists



Ask the right questions in consultation calls



Identify red flags and green flags



Make an informed decision about who can truly help your child

How to use it:

- Print or save this checklist
- Bring it to every consultation call
- Take notes on each tutor's responses
- Compare answers to find the best fit

ABOUT TRAINING & EXPERIENCE

1 "What specific training do you have in dyscalculia intervention?"

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

- Names specific programs: Dr. Schreuder, Ronit Bird, Steve Chinn, Mahesh Sharma
- Provides completion dates
- Can show certificates

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

- "I've worked with lots of struggling math students"
- "I've read about it"
- Vague or no specific training mentioned

NOTES:

2 "How many students with dyscalculia have you worked with, and for how long?"

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

- Specific numbers (15-20 students over X years)
- Long-term relationships (1-3+ years with students)
- Range of ages and severity levels

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

- "Many" or "several" (vague)
- "I've tutored lots of kids who struggle with math"
- No specific dyscalculia experience

NOTES:

3 "Can you describe your approach to teaching [place value/fractions/specific concept] to a student with dyscalculia?"

(Insert your child's specific struggle area)

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

- Concrete examples of manipulatives
- Mentions CRA (concrete-representational-abstract) progression
- Describes multisensory techniques
- Focuses on conceptual understanding, not just procedures

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

- "I'd explain it clearly and have them practice"
- No mention of manipulatives or multisensory approach
- Focuses only on memorization or procedures

NOTES:

4 "What assessments do you use to identify learning gaps?"

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

Names specific tools (Lets Go Learn, WRAT5, KeyMath)

Mentions both formal and informal assessment

Discusses ongoing progress monitoring

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

"I just see where they're struggling"

No specific assessment tools mentioned

No mention of progress tracking

NOTES:



ABOUT METHODOLOGY

5 "How do you incorporate multisensory techniques into your lessons?"

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

- Specific examples: visual, auditory, kinesthetic, tactile activities
- Integrated into every lesson (not just "sometimes")
- Variety of manipulatives and tools

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

- "I use visuals and hands-on activities when needed"
- Vague or no specific examples
- Doesn't understand what "multisensory" means

NOTES:

6 "Can you give me an example of how you'd teach [specific concept] using concrete manipulatives?"

(Choose: fractions, multiplication, decimals, place value, etc.)

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

- Detailed, specific example
- Clear progression from concrete → representational → abstract
- Emphasizes conceptual understanding

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

- Vague response
- "I'd show them with pictures"
- No mention of hands-on manipulatives

NOTES:

7 "How do you address math anxiety and build confidence alongside skill development?"

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

Explicit anxiety-reduction strategies

Growth mindset and celebrating effort

Psychologically safe learning environment

Understands emotional and academic progress are connected

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

"Once they understand, confidence naturally improves"

No specific strategies mentioned

Doesn't acknowledge the emotional component

NOTES:

8 "What's your approach when a student doesn't understand something after multiple attempts?"

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

- Tries completely different approaches
- Flexibility and creativity
- Checks for prerequisite skills
- Never blames the student

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

- "We keep practicing until they get it"
- "Some kids just need more time"
- Implies it's the student's fault

NOTES:



ABOUT LOGISTICS & COMMUNICATION

9 "How do you track and communicate progress to parents?"

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

Regular, structured communication (session notes, progress reports)

Specific metrics (not just "doing great")

Written documentation

Collaboration with parents

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

"I'll let you know if there are problems"

No structured communication system

Vague about progress tracking

NOTES:

10 "What does a typical session look like?"

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

- Structured but flexible format
- Balance of review, new content, practice
- Multisensory activities throughout
- Student engagement and choice

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

- "We work on whatever homework they have"
- No clear structure
- Reactive rather than proactive

NOTES:

11 "How do you collaborate with schools and other professionals?"

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

- Willing to communicate with teachers
- Understands IEPs/504 plans
- Team approach to supporting the child

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

- "I focus on my tutoring; parents handle school stuff"
- No interest in collaboration
- Doesn't understand school accommodations

NOTES:

12 "What's your cancellation/rescheduling policy?"

✓ GREEN FLAG ANSWER:

- Clear, reasonable policy (24-48 hours notice)
- Flexibility for emergencies
- Professional and fair

▶ RED FLAG ANSWER:

- Unclear or overly rigid policy
- No flexibility whatsoever
- Hidden fees or confusing terms

NOTES:

THE ULTIMATE TELL: HOW THEY TALK ABOUT YOUR CHILD

13 Listen to their language and perspective throughout the conversation:

▶ RED FLAGS:

- ✗ Deficit-focused language**
 - "Fix," "overcome," "catch up to normal"
- ✗ Blaming the student**
 - "They just need to focus more"
 - "They're not trying hard enough"
- ✗ Impatience or frustration**
 - Sounds annoyed when discussing challenges
- ✗ One-size-fits-all approach**
 - "This is how I teach everyone"

✔ GREEN FLAGS:

- ✔ Neurodiversity-affirming language**
 - "Support," "work with their strengths," "different learning profile"
- ✔ Curiosity about your child**
 - "Tell me about their interests"
 - "What motivates them?"
- ✔ Empathy and understanding**
 - "Math struggles take a real emotional toll"
- ✔ Strength-based perspective**
 - "What are they good at? How can we leverage that?"
- ✔ Genuine enthusiasm**
 - Excited about the work and your child's potential

NOTES:

TUTOR COMPARISON AT A GLANCE

Use this chart to compare up to 3 tutors side-by-side:

CRITERIA	TUTOR 1	TUTOR 2	TUTOR 3
Name			
Specific dyscalculia training?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Multisensory certification?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Years of dyscalculia experience			
Number of dyscalculia students			
Uses CRA approach?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Addresses math anxiety?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Regular progress reports?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Collaborates with schools?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Neurodiversity-affirming language?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Rate per session	\$	\$	\$
Overall impression	★★★★★	★★★★★	★★★★★

YOUR ACTION PLAN

You've done the consultations. Now what?

STEP 1: Review Your Notes

- Compare answers across all tutors
- Count green flags vs. red flags
- Trust your gut about rapport and fit

STEP 2: Consider Your Child's Needs

- Who seemed most knowledgeable about your child's specific struggles?
- Who had the most relevant experience?
- Who made you feel most confident?

STEP 3: Don't Choose Based on Price Alone

- Specialized tutoring costs more—and it's worth it
- The cheapest option often costs more in the long run (wasted time, continued struggle)
- Investment in the right specialist pays off exponentially

STEP 4: Schedule a Trial Session

- Many tutors offer 1-2 trial sessions before committing to packages
- See how your child responds
- Assess whether the methodology matches what was promised

STEP 5: Commit to Consistency

- Progress takes time (months to years, not weeks)
- Regular sessions matter more than intensity
- Communicate openly with your tutor about progress and concerns



NEED MORE SUPPORT?

Ready to explore whether MindBridge Math Mastery is the right fit?

Schedule a free 20-minute consultation:

- Discuss your child's specific challenges
- Learn about our specialized approach
- Ask questions and get honest answers

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Or book online at <https://tidycal.com/susanardila/free-consultation>