Maths – Supporting children with SEND

Cognition & Learning		Communication & Interaction	
Barrier	**Steps to Support**	**Barrier**	**Steps to Support**
Difficulty understanding mathematical concepts. Difficulty remembering number facts and times tables. Difficulty following multi-step calculations or instructions. Difficulty understanding mathematical vocabulary. Difficulty applying mathematical knowledge to word problems. Difficulty working independently to solve problems.	Use practical resources, such as counters, cubes and number lines. Provide multiplication grids and regular retrieval practice. Break calculations into smaller, manageable steps. Pre-teach key vocabulary using visuals and simple explanations. Highlight key information and model how to identify the operation needed. Provide worked examples and gradually reduce adult support.	Difficulty understanding verbal instructions. Difficulty explaining mathematical reasoning. Struggling to ask for help when stuck. Difficulty working collaboratively during maths activities. Difficulty understanding mathematical vocabulary. Difficulty listening to and understanding other children's strategies.	Use simple language alongside visual instructions. Provide sentence starters, e.g. "I know this because..." Introduce a help card or simple help signal. Allocate specific roles when working in pairs or groups. Display key vocabulary with pictures and definitions. Model active listening and provide structured opportunities to share methods.
Physical & Sensory		**Social, Emotional & Mental Health**	
Barrier	**Steps to Support**	**Barrier**	**Steps to Support**

Difficulty writing numbers or calculations due to fine motor difficulties. Visual difficulties when reading numbers or mathematical symbols. Difficulty distinguishing between similar numbers or symbols. Sensitivity to bright lights or busy visual displays. Sensory overload from noise in the classroom. Difficulty physically manipulating practical resources.	Provide squared paper, larger pencils or alternative recording methods. Use enlarged resources, clear fonts and high-contrast materials. Use colour coding to highlight important symbols and place values. Provide uncluttered worksheets and reduce unnecessary visual distractions. Offer access to a quieter workspace or noise-reducing headphones. Provide larger, easier-to-handle manipulatives and adapted equipment.	Maths anxiety or fear of getting answers wrong. Low confidence when tackling unfamiliar maths problems. Difficulty managing frustration when calculations become challenging. Difficulty maintaining concentration during maths activities. Reluctance to participate or answer questions in front of others. Difficulty managing emotions when they cannot complete a task.	Create a supportive environment where mistakes are part of learning. Provide achievable starting points and celebrate small successes. Teach children to pause, take a breath and try a different strategy. Break lessons into shorter, focused tasks. Allow children to practise answers with a partner before sharing. Provide reassurance, encouragement and regular check-ins.