

Math Difficulties and Irlen Syndrome

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General Problems

- Directions move
- Can't comprehend word problems
- Test anxiety and feeling rushed caused by numbers moving and an attempt to keep up
- Either paper or numbers float
- White becomes dull causing sleepiness

Graph Paper Problems (www.mathbits.com)

- Hard to follow lines in grid /get them mixed up
- Strains eyes
- Lose place on grid
- See optical illusions
- Cartesian plane quadrants morph into circles
- Lines of grid move
- Grid intersections get fuzzy and come off the page
- Vertical lines of the grid disappear
- Squares turn to circles
- Squares move and pop out
- White floats off the graph paper

Sign Problems

- Confuse \times and $+$
- \div looks like $+$
- Vertical line of $+$ disappears and it becomes $-$
- Negative signs disappear
- Negative and minus signs look the same

Number Problems

- Confuse 8 & 6
- Confuse 2 & 5
- White pops out in 4, 6, 8, 9, 0
- Numbers dance
- Numerator and denominator flip in fractions
- π disappears into numbers

Other Problems

- Tables move—3rd grade multiplication table, tables of values in algebra
- Black on white flashcards are uncomfortable
- Rivers between numbers
- Problems get mixed together in drill problems
- Overlooking numbers in word form—i.e. “four”
- Using wrong formulas or reading them incorrectly