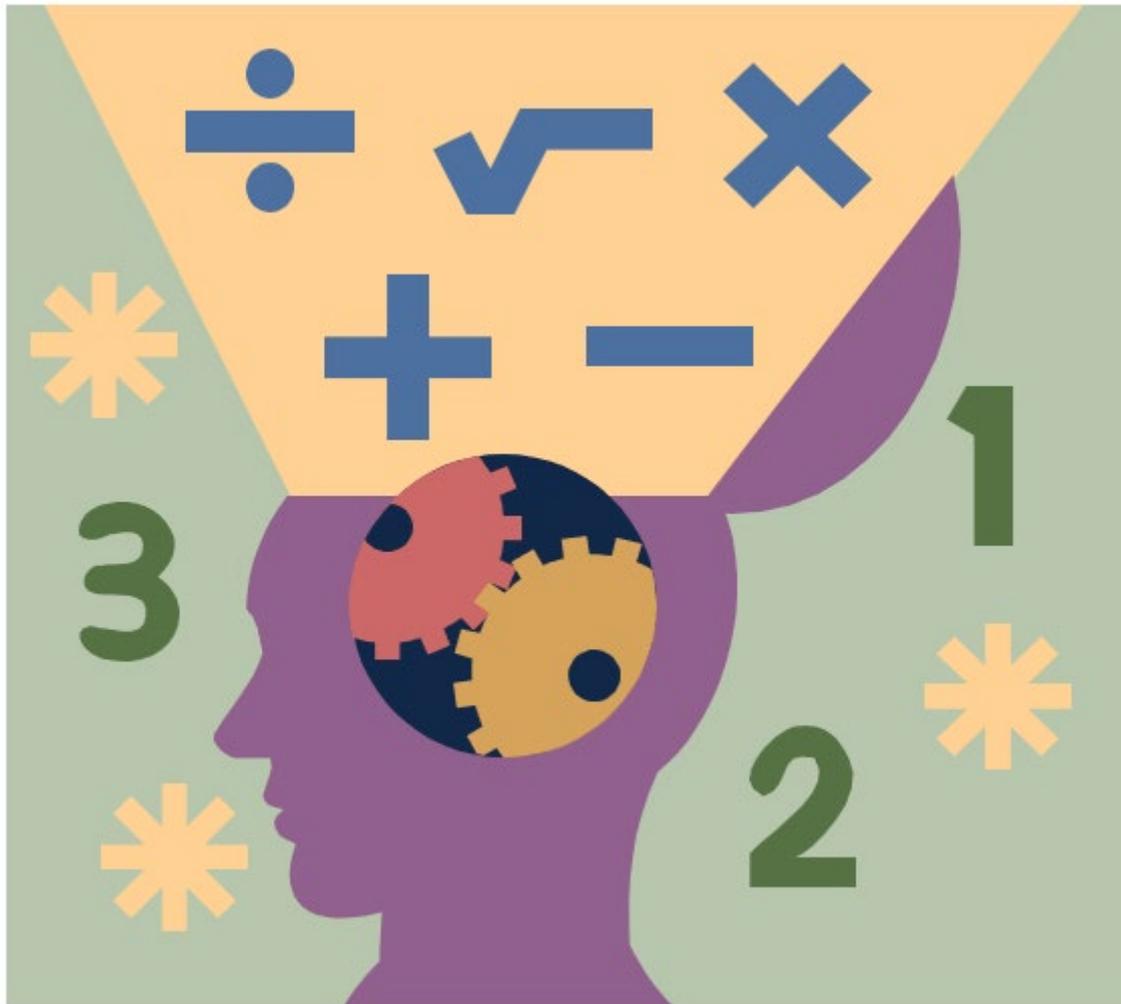# Supporting children to learn basic number facts

Herts. SpLD outreach service; promoting the expertise of schools to meet the needs of learners with specific learning difficulties through advisory work, training and exemplar teaching.

- ✓ Avoid holding the child back just because they have difficulty with the recall of number facts.

- ✓ Keep a personal log of number facts they do know.

- ✓ Teach and practise composition and decomposition of numbers as a strategy for the recall of number facts. (Cuisennaire & Numicon as support materials).

- ✓ Get a memo book or make prompt cards where pupils can record information they have trouble remembering - number facts, working methods, mnemonics.

- ✓ The recording method must be taught in conjunction with the physical manipulation of material so the children understand what they are doing and how it relates to place value.

- ✓ Teach a small number of facts at one time - provide lots of learning and practise and repeated revision.

- ✓ Provide a number line, charts, tables and concrete resources to help.

- ✓ Teach and encourage the use of calculators to provide accurate number facts.

- ✓ Develop an understanding of reverses and turnarounds, e.g. 6 + 5 = 11, 5 + 6 = 11, 11 - 5 = 6, 11 - 6 = 5 are all part of the same 'family'.

- ✓ Ask if this is the answer what would the question be

- ✓ Use computer games to practise number facts, e.g. Number Shark.

- ✓ Teach tricks, e.g. 4 x a number is double its double and to know 8 times you double it again.

- ✓ Use empty number charts etc to get pupils to fill in the answers rather than reciting tables. This helps develop strategies and mini calculations.

- ✓ Estimation may be difficult so children might need explicit instruction and plenty of guided practise. Making charts and posters can help if a chart tells them 60 + 60 = 120 then it will help them estimate that 56 + 57 will be slightly less than 120.