

SOME REASONS FOR MATHS ANXIETY

1. The child's genetic disposition at birth (mental and physical)
2. Child's economic background (hunger ,cramped conditions)
3. Family's social background (drink, drugs ,violence)
4. Parental positive encouragement in maths
5. The school environment
6. Unusual exterior reasons for missing school (illness, frequent family moves)
7. The maths teacher has maths anxiety
8. The maths pedagogy : possible inflexibility of some methods used to teach teachers to teach.
9. The maths course online (screen teaching)
10. The maths course in text books



Copyright © The Maths Anxiety Trust 2018

This circle is divided in ten equal slices. Every person with Maths Anxiety may be affected by one of more slices, to a greater or lesser degree.

Educational psychologists tend to concentrate on circle slices 2 and 3. It is time that there was a focus on the areas that have not been examined thoroughly in the last 50 years: areas 4 - 10.

THE PRESENT MATHS CURRICULUM is sometimes described as not fit for purpose. It is not always logically presented - in some steps the hard part comes **before** the easy part. The present Curriculum need to be deconstructed and reassembled. Parts of the new curriculum need a complete, updated version of Everyday Maths, for work, for leisure, for 21ST Century life.

It needs to include simple sections on bookkeeping and budgeting, plus a young person's guide to finance and world economics. The new curriculum needs to be written by maths academics and teachers, working with other professionals: a communicator such as a top journalist, a graphic designer, and an editor-in-chief.

No past maths curriculum has been tested on children before it is printed and distributed. The new curriculum needs to be thoroughly tested on children of different abilities, different ages and with different challenges (i.e. Dyslexia) BEFORE it is printed and distributed.

MATHS PEDAGOGY. Teacher training methods need to be updated for the 21st Century: a section is needed on the detection and treatment of Maths Anxiety.

For Instance, a problem frequently reported by children: If the child does not understand what the teacher said, the child puts up its hand - but the teacher merely reports what was said the first time. And so - again - the child does not understand it.