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If your child has been having a hard time doing his Maths homework, don't fret. He's not the only one dealing with the 'phobia of numbers'.

As a child, I too would wish

ARE NUMBERS BEYOND YOUR CHILD?

for the end of the world before every Mathematics exam. Fortunately, my parents were understanding and did not prod me to work harder without getting to the root of the problem. I ended up scoring 92 in Mathematics in high school and I give my parents and homeopathy credit for that.

Being a homeopath presently, I make sure that all those children who come for consultation for regular ailments, also get treated for learning disabilities, if any.

Numlexia or dyscalculia or Math disability is a specific learning disability involving difficulty in learning or comprehending arithmetic and includes problems in understanding numbers, calcula-

tions and learning Mathematics-related facts and usually leads to Arithmophobia i.e. fear of numbers. This may be due to brain injury, in which case, the proper term is Acalculia, or due to low IQ.

However, people across all IQ ranges are sufferers of Math disability. Students doing well in all other subjects are at times extremely weak with numbers. Instead of prodding the child into studying harder, parents should make their children practice basic math calculations in daily life. They should be encouraged to mentally figure out the sum of shopping purchases and bills. The child might get more motivated if she/he

knows where all Maths is needed. Tests are a part of school but they don't need to be the ultimate goal.

The goal should be to learn math so the child can use it in her life. Homeopathy has wonderful medicines for Arithmophobia, dyscalculia and conditions such as horror of mathematics, inability for calculations, algebra and geometry, concentration problems while calculating etc.

If your child is suffering from any of the above stated conditions, take him to a homeopathic physician for counseling.

(The writer is a practising homeopathic physician based in Lucknow)