

What is Working Memory?

Working memory is the temporary storage system that we use when we need to hold information in our heads briefly, but which we then have no further use for e.g. multiply 24 by 15. It is like a mental jotting pad or workspace. Some students can only hold a limited amount of information here.

What might this look like?

- incomplete recall
- failure to follow instructions
- place-keeping errors and task abandonment

Further Advice

Useful Websites:

<https://www.ldatschool.ca/working-memory-difficulties/>

<https://www.yesataretelearningtrust.net/Portals/0/Supporting%20Working%20Memory.pdf>

Reading:

Understanding Working Memory, a classroom guide by Gathercole & Alloway.

<https://www.specialneedsjungle.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/WM-classroom-guide.pdf>

Ready Set Remember: Short Term Auditory Memory Activities, which can be used to develop provision.

[iif_kgpm_mense_ready_set_remember.pdf](http://www.kgpm.mense.ready.set.remember.pdf)

Top Tips

1. Identify heavy loads caused by lengthy sequences and demanding mental processing activities.
2. Reduce material to be remembered.
3. Increase meaningfulness and familiarity of material.
4. Restructure complex tasks.
5. Repeat important information (in different ways).
6. Encourage use of memory aids e.g. personalised dictionaries, multiplication grids, diagrams/illustrations, colour coding, highlighting.
7. Use visual, auditory, and kinaesthetic activities and cues.
8. Provide help sheet/top tips with simplified written guidance
9. Mnemonics e.g. said = Sally Ann is dancing
10. Display key vocabulary or information
11. Make lists to highlight what needs to be remembered as well as a progress chart to strike off completed items
12. Connect notions together e.g. mind map, or put information into a sentence to be remembered
13. Chunk information e.g. BBCITVGMT can be remembered more easily as 3 chunks than a list of 9 letters.