

What is Processing Speed?

Processing speed is a **cognitive process** that involves the ability to perform basic cognitive tasks **automatically**, especially when under pressure to maintain **focused attention** and **concentration**.



Impacts on Learning

Reading:	Writing:	Math:	Communication:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scanning and quickly identifying important information • Reading speed and comprehension of text • Word retrieval 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization of ideas, sentences, and format • Completion of written tasks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Automaticity of math operations • Completion of multi-step problems with speed and accuracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time to respond to oral questions • Following verbal requests

Trouble Areas

- › Confusion and frustration with task steps
- › Working with rote information
- › Managing transitions and decisions
- › Taking notes
- › Finishing test and tasks within allotted time
- › Keeping pace with conversations

Slow processing speed is not a sign of low intelligence or motivation.

Helpful Strategies and Accommodations

- Allow long response times to oral questions
- Pre-warn student with intended questions
- Note essential information with highlighting
- Repeat information and facts
- Emphasize output over grammar, spelling, and punctuation
- Pre-teach reading materials and lessons
- Use multiple choice or cloze task test items
- Allow for dictation
- Avoid time limits or provide extra time
- Reduce and structure the amount of copying required

Unhelpful Approaches

Brain training programs may improve skill on a specific game or task, but does not generalize to other experiences in daily living.

(See Sabrina Weiss, 2019, Wired Magazine for detailed article: <https://www.wired.co.uk/article/nintendo-brain-training-switch>)