

EEF Case study:

Co-operative Childcare Newburn



Key points of your Maths Champions improvements

- Maths area for group time and 1:1s
- Audit tool used regular
- Maths activities during staff meetings
- Appropriate training
- Improved tidy up time
- More natural resources
- Decluttered
- Catalogue of activities

Background detail

The co-operative childcare Newburn employs 25 members of staff, of these, 22 hold appropriate early years qualifications at level 3 or above, including one with qualified teacher status. The nursery opens from Monday to Friday all year round. Sessions are from 7.30AM until 6.30PM. The nursery provides early education for two, three and four year old children. Maths has always been a focus for development within the nursery as this area often shows gaps in childrens learning.

Section 2 – Champion’s section

How has the programme developed your own and your team’s CPD?

I am now confident when doing audits to make sure maths is available in each area, I support colleagues with planning and next steps. I have refreshed my own knowledge of maths. I also have a catalogue of activities, songs and recipes to support myself and the team. My colleagues have also refreshed their knowledge of math through the programme. Staff meetings have been the perfect opportunity to do training and team building maths tasks. Being able to deliver the training has built my confidence in leaps and bounds.

What has been the impact of the training?

Peer observations, we have focused on maths allowing us to add to the development plan to help make key changes in areas needed. Overall practice is outstanding, all staff have confidence to talk about maths and incorporate maths into everyday activities. The song sheets have been very popular with staff being able to extend each song and make song bags to go home. We enjoyed the training courses as they were short and to the point.

From your starting point to today, what have been the changes in the following:

- **Children outcomes** Looking at trackers, the children have progressed well, maths has always been a focus, we want this to continue into the future. Through decluttering tidy up time is being carried out appropriately.
- **Staff development** Re-touching on subjects during the BKSB has built staff confidence. Team building and training at staff meetings has been very productive, staff are confident to support each other.
- **Parental relationships** The children have a challenge of the week to go home alongside our reading scheme, the children also take a maths challenge home weekly. Parents also collect natural materials to bring into nursery i.e. pine cones, boxes and pebbles.
- **Environment indoors** We now have a maths area where we focus on small group time and 1:1 time. Each area also has maths used to its full potential, we have decluttered and added lots of natural materials.
- **Environment outdoors** Again each area has maths within the area, outdoors will be our next focus. Staff are confident to research to make resources and equipment. Our catalogue of activities are also used a lot to extend areas and activities.
- **Attitudes towards maths** Everybody's attitude is very positive, at the beginning of the programme staff were unsure and not confident through experiences prior to this. Having the resources and activity sheets gives staff confidence to extend activities and areas. Staff support each other when needed or asked.

Section 3 – staff

How has the programme developed your CPD in relation to maths?

Re-touching on subjects that I did in school made me realise that a lot relates to everyday life in nursery i.e. staff ratios. Staff confidence is at a all time high with a more positive attitude towards maths.

What has been the impact of the training on your day to day practice?

We have found ways to incorporate maths into all activities. We are more aware of childrens learning and how they can learn through maths.

What resources did you find most useful and why?

The song sheets have been most useful to help make song bags. Activity sheets to extend childrens development through maths. Sharing ideas and photos with other nurseries to show how simple and fun maths can be.

Can you tell us the biggest change the Champion has introduced for maths across your setting?

The maths area is fantastic, being able to do small group time with my key children. Changing staff thought process when leading activities to incorporate maths into them.

How did you find the BKSB element of the programme? If you did not use this, please tell us why?

Finding time to go on the computer during work hours has been most difficult, the nursery is very busy and often do not have spare staff. The programme brought back understanding of how to solve problems.

Can you tell us the difference in your confidence and attitudes towards your own maths and teaching children maths since the start of the programme?

The catalogue of activities has helped to extend activities and find next steps. Built confidence with adding maths into activities without even thinking about it.

Next steps

Continue to update areas through audits, getting the whole team involved to continue to develop ideas and wow areas. The evidence will be in our trackers. Happy staff and happy children. Even though only a few staff took part in the programme, all staff were involved and supported each other.

Final thoughts on the programme.....

Seeing maths being used in each area and staff talking about maths has been very positive. Supporting each other and team building sessions have been lots of fun. Overall the programme has been most enjoyable. Finding time to go on the computer has been a challenge, but we have done it. I am really happy that we took part in the programme, the nursery will thrive.

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