

EEF Case study:

Reach for the stars nursery



Key points of your Maths Champions improvements

- *Raised staff awareness*
- *Children's progress has improved*
- *New resources in place*
- *Restructuring of some areas*

Background detail

Reach for the stars is based in the Staffordshire town of Biddulph and the majority of our intake is from the immediate area. The district profile for Staffordshire has consistently identified maths as an area of concern across the region and we felt that being part of the maths champions programme would help us to address this in our particular setting. Our aim was to improve staff confidence in using maths on a daily basis and to identify areas where additional maths could be introduced. This we felt would have a positive impact on the children's learning and confidence in maths.

Section 2 – Champion's section

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

The online training and webinars have been very informative & helpful in raising awareness of how maths can be used throughout the setting. We have also made use of many of the resources to support group and individual planning for the children. We feel that as a whole, our staff are now a lot more confident in using mathematical language and are bringing maths into activities which had previously not been evident.

What has been the impact of the training?

Raised awareness of how to use maths effectively throughout the setting.

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

- ***Children outcomes*** – *Tracking shows significant improvements*
- ***Staff development*** – *Overall more confident in using maths*
- ***Parental relationships*** – *Resources & ideas have been passed on to support learning at home*
- ***Environment indoors*** – *More number lines; home corner has been changed & improved; additional resources obtained.*
- ***Environment outdoors*** – *More number lines; mirroring of resources to ensure continuity from indoor learning.*
- ***Attitudes towards maths***- *More confident*

Tell us about any new initiatives or projects relating to maths? E.g. parental partnership development

In response to requests from parents for support with learning at home, we have put together some maths based learning packs. These consist mainly of a game or short activity that can be done in the home or whilst out shopping etc., together with written guidance for parents to enable them to look for and maximise learning opportunities.

Some of the staff are now using the PLODS sheets to help them to take advantage of the children's interests & build them into their mathematical learning.

The online resources have been printed and organised into easily accessible folders for all staff to use. A copy is currently being made to share with our other two settings.

Mirroring of activities & resources is ongoing in order to maximise learning opportunities in the outdoor environment.

Section 3 – staff

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

All staff in agreement that their confidence has improved significantly.

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

- *Now using more mathematical language*
- *Using more opportunities for counting*
- *Confident to introduce bigger numbers with older children*
- *Using more maths on a daily basis*
- *Aware of more ways to use maths to support children's development*

What resources did you find most useful and why?

- *Folder of activities put together by our maths champion*
- *Maths games*
- *PLODS*
- *Ideas for activities covering outdoors & messy play etc.*

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

- *More resources*
- *Helping us to be more aware of how we use maths*
- *How to make maths more interesting*

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

- *Easy to follow*
- *Difficult the first time as there was a lot I didn't know or understand but it was useful in guiding me to areas where I needed to learn more*

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?

- *Much more confident to use maths in all activities*
- *Now using maths all the time*
- *More confident in using maths at the level the children are at*
- *I am aware of how I use maths during play and daily routines*
- *I have been able to develop the ways I can introduce maths to the children in self chosen activities*
- *I am now a lot more confident and creative with the activities I provide*
- *I enjoy delivering maths based activities now as I can see the development in the children*

Next steps

How are you going to develop your practice further and why, what will the impact be? Who will be involved? How will your practice support good outcomes for children?

- *Regular audits of resources & practice to ensure continued good practice*
- *All staff will be involved in this as we felt it was beneficial during the programme to involve everyone at every step*
- *Ongoing development of resources and environment*
- *Continuing to involve parents in their children's learning*

The impact will be:

- *Outcomes for children's learning & development will be improved*
- *Parents will be more aware of how they can support learning at home*
- *A maths rich environment will be maintained*

Final thoughts on the programme.....

Being part of the programme has been an educational and enjoyable experience for us. It has been a valuable tool in improving our own knowledge and practice, which in turn has helped us to improve opportunities for the children. We would also like to extend our thanks for the support we have received throughout the programme, it was good to know that there was always someone on the end of the phone if we had needed them.

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