

Case study 12 - Triangle Day Nursery – Parent's Workshop

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Background:

Karen Hazelden, R.G.N.R.M, opened Triangle House in 1994 in Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, with a vision of providing the very best care for small children. The nursery is led by manager Michelle Smith who is a Qualified Teacher with a BA Hons degree in Early Education, Early Years Professional Status (EYPS) and ILM level 5 in Leadership and Management.

Triangle House Private Nursery currently offer childcare for 120 children, with three funded two year olds and 28 funded three and four year olds on roll.

It currently employs 24 staff, 20 of whom have level three or above, including four graduates, including the manager with the EYP/QTS one with a Degree in Early Years Education and one with a Foundation Degree in Early Years.

Triangle House Day Nursery joined the Maths Champion project in September 2013. They are still working on their focus on maths and recently held a parent's workshop in maths to support the home learning in this area.

Introduction:

Triangle House Day Nursery identified the need to support their parents with home learning in the area of maths. The workshop was months in the planning and the Early Years Professional (EYP) asked NDNA to support them with the development of materials for this evening and ideas for activities to do. NDNA provided parents' pack ideas and agreed to attend the evening to further support the nursery. This case study has been developed by the nursery and NDNA together.

Introduction of the workshop:

The nursery invited all parents from the nursery along to an evening session where they could talk through ideas for home learning with a focus on maths. The teams prepared for this by deciding which areas they wanted to focus on and how they could engage with the parents during this time. They decided to start the evening with a talk from the EYP who thanked the parents for intending, informed them about the structure of the evening and introduced the parents' leaflets for them to take away after the evening.

NDNA's Lead Maths Champion then talked about the importance of maths in the early years and the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) results for children in maths, especially boys and how working together with the nursery will

help to increase their child's opportunities for maths and ultimately build strong foundations for school and beyond.

Structure of the workshop:

The environment

The nursery team set up the environment to allow parents to see the activities they can use and support at home. Each area had a team member to introduce the activities to the parents and talk through the different aspects of maths and how to introduce this to their child in a play based way.

Activities included an introduction to Numicon which is a multi-sensory approach, built on a proven pedagogy that raises achievement across all ability levels. This is an approach and resource the nursery accessed whilst on the Maths Champion project and the parent's workshop enabled the team to introduce this to the parents using parents' packs and activities they can replicate at home.

Other activities included sorting socks and washing, teddy bears picnics and sharing out food, simple maths games, cookery and maths through creative time, including bead patterns, sorting colours, and making patterns with their art.



Teddy Bear's picnic
Setting the table
Size, small, medium, large
Problem solving
Comparison

Sorting shells and pine
cones into size

Patterns with beads

Pipe cleaners made
into shapes

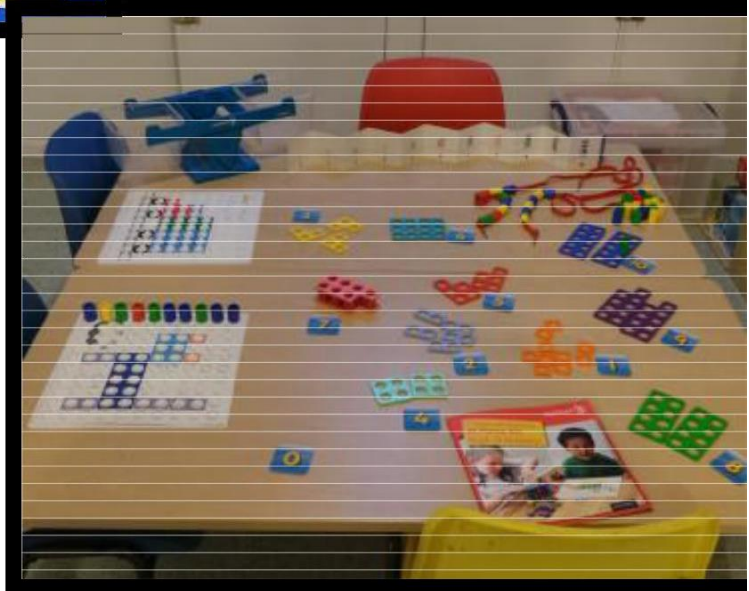
Shape pictures



Cooking activities

The "Rice and Cup" game

Introducing Numicon for counting
Numicon for weight and comparison



The team:

Different team members sat at the varying stations and prepared to speak to the parents about the activities. This included how to introduce them to their children, how to extend the activity for different ages and stages of development, and how these activities can support their child's development in this area. The team answered questions posed by the parents and provided opportunities for the parents to have a go themselves.



The resources:

The nursery and NDNA created an abundance of resources for the parents to take home with them to further develop their ideas into the home for maths. These included parents' packs explaining the importance of home learning for maths and how this can be incorporated into the activities and routines the family already have in place, e.g. shopping, chores and household activities, and specific activity ideas for the parents to try at home. This enabled the parents to feed back to their partners and also for the parents unable to attend to still have access to the resources.



Impact of the workshop:

Although the turnout for the workshop was not as high as the setting hoped for, the parents who attended were engaged and went away with lots of ideas to extend their child's learning at home.

We know this is important when we look at the EPPSE project findings. The project report states *“Positive parenting experiences, especially a more stimulating early years Home Learning Environment (HLE) when children were young helps to promote better long term outcomes. The early years HLE remained a significant predictor of better GCSE results.”*

Influences on students' GCSE attainment and progress at age 16 - Effective Pre-School, Primary &

Secondary Education Project (EPPSE) September 2014 page 5

With this in mind the setting knew the importance of engaging the parents in this workshop in order to support the Home Learning Environment to best effect.

Parent's comments from the evening included

- ❖ I thought the Maths Workshop was really enlightening, I have already been using some of the suggestions about use of language and visual aids with regards to size and volumes and Jensen seems to be responding extremely well... It's true! He never knew there was a 'medium', everything is big and small to him!! he does now though!
- ❖ I feel that the workshop will be very beneficial in using the simple techniques to make maths fun and keeping both Jensen and Dexter engaged. Thank you to you and the team for your advice, time and cake!!!

Staff from the nursery found this evening beneficial and commented that

- ❖ I found the evening very beneficial because explaining maths to the parents helped to solidify my own understanding. It was also great to connect with the parents and share what we do in nursery, so they can also do it at home

Conclusion:

This workshop has enabled the setting to support the parents to understand the importance of home learning, especially in relation to maths. This in turn enables the children to have more joined up opportunities for maths learning and working together as a team to support the child's development. This will support raised outcomes and better foundations for their future education and life chances as detailed in the EPPSE report.