

Maths Champions Case Study:

Nature Trails Day Nursery

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Introduction:

As Maths Champions we both feel that our mathematical knowledge has broadened and we are able to confidently offer support, advice and encouragement to carry this project forward. Providing daily encouragement for all activities on offer (not necessarily set up for maths programme) has made staff more confident that they are already integrating maths into play activities. Having a focus has been positive to both our personal development.

Impact of the project:

The team

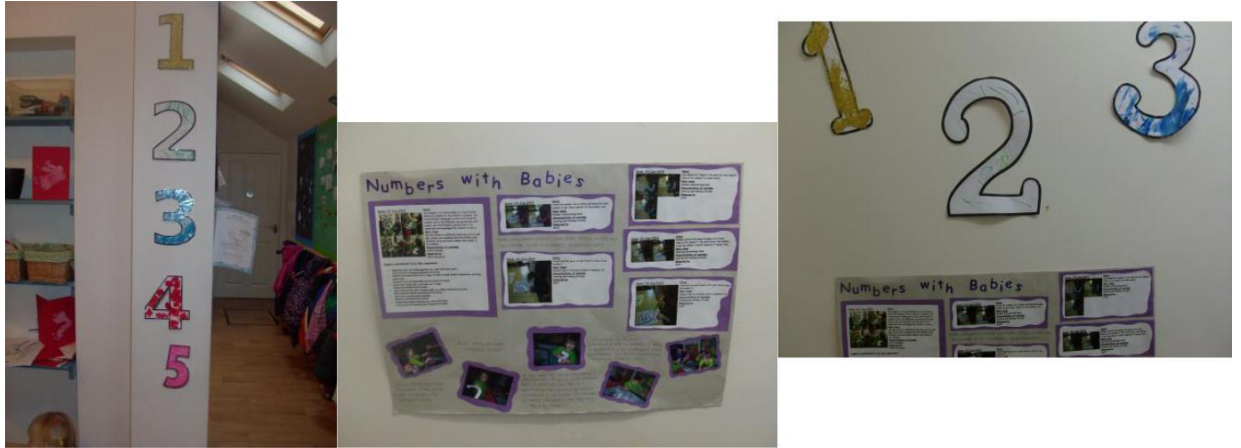
We feel that each practitioner involved within the Maths project has grown in confidence in the ability to carry out projects and mathematical learning experiences. Staff are now more confident with the acknowledgement (from both Vicky and I as well as other practitioners) of the experiences they are offering children.

The environment

We have implemented number lines and specified maths areas throughout the setting



In our baby room (Acorns) one of our practitioners has set up a maths area using lots of coloured and shaped objects. There is plenty of opportunity for building and counting opportunities with visual numbers clearly displayed.



Numbers are clearly displayed within the toddler room (Saplings) and examples of activities conducted so parents are able to view progress. Construction activities are put out daily to give children the opportunity to use maths and shapes within the daily routine.



Within our 1st preschool unit (Sycamore) numbers 1-20 are clearly displayed with quantity images attached so amounts can be visualised in different forms. Resources are used throughout the room linking shapes and colours to quantity, (light box example above.)



Within the first preschool (Willow) we had already implemented the use of a visual timetable to give the children the understanding of first, then, before, next and after linking to specified times of the day. The children also helped to produce a new number line incorporating visual numbers and number values which is clearly displayed.

Using some of the activity suggestions provided by NDNA has helped practitioners to structure effective Maths activities and helped them to use open ended questioning to gain a wider knowledge of children's understanding within the mathematical topic or concept. We have adapted the activities and learning goals within the plan to suit the children in the younger care rooms to enable all children to be included in the activities and opportunities.

The children and their development

As always the children within our setting are eager to take part in all activities involving mathematical concepts and we always endeavour to make them interesting and fun!