

Case study:

Honey Pot Nurseries



National Day Nurseries Association

Name of setting: Honey Pot Nurseries

Date submitted: 18/07/19

Information supplied by: Ashley Williams-Day

Title: Maths Champions

Key points of your Maths Champions improvements

- *Improved our maths areas in our toddler and pre-school room.*
- *More mathematical resources across the whole nursery.*
- *Mathematical language displayed across the whole nursery.*
- *Creating a lovely maths area in our communal garden.*
- *Improved staff's confidence by supplying them with activity ideas and lesson plans for maths.*

Background detail

We collect data relating to children's progress each term and compare to the data results from the previous term so that we can monitor improvements and progress made and so that we can also identify where we could focus our support to help children to progress in certain areas. We had noticed that it was becoming common that Mathematics was an area that was consistently the lowest for progress made. Previously, we had implemented actions such as investing in more resources and encouraging staff to plan more activities involving Mathematics. This didn't seem to yield the results we wanted so we needed to look at a more effective way to support children's progress in Mathematics. Our research led us to the NDNA Maths Champions project. After some reading and conversations with the NDNA we decided that this particular project could potentially have a bigger impact on children's learning and development in Mathematics.

Section 2

Highlights and lowlights of the programme so far

Highlights

One of the main highlights of the programme for me is seeing the whole nursery change and become a more maths rich environment. We have ensured both our toddler and pre-school room have a maths area that is full of different maths resources from open-ended resources to everyday objects such as clocks and tape-measures. It has also been great to see the children get excited about maths and enjoy playing and exploring in these areas.

Another main highlight for me was building up my own knowledge on how to implement a more maths rich curriculum in the Early Years. After I had built up this knowledge using online courses

and activity ideas, I was able to then deliver this information to the staff and help them plan and implement lovely math activities.

Finally, I enjoyed the action research as it allowed me to focus on one topic we were interested in and research what is happening across the nursery in term of maths in the outdoor environment. I am going to share the information with the staff as it is quite eye opening how we don't use the outside environment enough for maths and therefore we can then make changes to this and ensure we are planning for maths in the outdoor environment.

Lowlights

I believe the maths champion programme was highly successful and therefore would say there was not much barriers to the programme.

Impact of the programme

On the whole I feel that the staff team have improved their practice in the teaching of Maths. The research project highlighted how staff had previously avoided planning mathematical activities or engaging on spontaneous play to incorporate mathematics. The impact of the project has proven to increase children's development in Maths due to the staff becoming more confident in their own practice. There has also been an investment in resources which has helped staff to support children's knowledge, understanding and learning. Staff make more of a conscious effort to incorporate Mathematics into their daily routine. The most recent data analysis (June 2019) shows an increase in the percentage of children in our nurseries meeting or exceeding their age related expectations in Mathematics.

Did you achieve what you wanted from the programme? If so, how?

Our aim for initially engaging in the project was to improve outcomes for our children in Mathematics. The recently collected data shows that we have achieved that aim. In addition to that we have achieved much more. Our staff are now more confident in their teaching of Mathematics, they have a wider awareness of the subject, we have better resources to support teaching and children are more confident in their Mathematical awareness. The project has far exceeded our initial expectations.

How has the programme helped you further develop your own practice?

The biggest impact on practice has been the widening of knowledge of the subject area. This seemed to be a common theme for staff that were asked about their own experiences of maths and how they currently teach. There was so much emphasis on counting and recognising number that everything else was either an after thought or ignore. The project has helped to raise the awareness of teaching to include understanding of money, time, sizes, shapes and much more. They've learnt that maths is much more than 'a number hunt in the garden'!

Next steps

One of the less successful aspects of the project was engaging parents. We found it difficult to get parents on board in supporting maths at home. Going forward this will be our focus. We will advertise suggested activity ideas and how to use resources that can be found around the house or in the garden. We will give them the techniques to support all aspects of maths and monitor the impact of this on children's learning.

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