

Case study:

Maths Champions

Name of setting: Hornsey Day Nursery

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Title: Nursery Manager

Key points of your Maths Champions improvements

- Better awareness of our resources and the opportunity to purchase resources that were missing
- More knowledge of mathematical activities and how to conduct them
- More organised curriculum
- Children are more knowledgeable when it comes to mathematics

Background detail

We are a small nursery (around 50 places) in North London. We opened just over 3 years ago and we accommodate children who come from all over the world, which means that most of them have EAL, though we rarely find that this affects our practice or the children's learning.

We opted to join the programme since we are still new and would like to improve our practice in all areas and as much as possible. We aim to become an outstanding nursery (we have not yet been graded in our Toddler and Preschool) and would like to do this to enable our children to have a stronger start in their education and to help us develop our practice as individuals to the best of our capacity.

Section 2

Highlights and lowlights of the programme so far

The only disadvantages we found were linked to budgeting, as we were all very keen on purchasing several resources, some of which are expensive, to help us create new activities to stimulate the children. We opted to stagger the purchasing of the resources over the next months, with the intention of having bought all the things we need by the summer of 2018.

As practitioners, we felt we grew a lot and even enjoyed the self-reflective practice we adopted in this area of learning. The children benefitted from new resources and new activities and have shown great interest in mathematical activities. Their mathematical language has grown, as has their understanding of simple mathematical concepts.

Impact of the programme

The staff were initially a bit confused, as this is the first programme we were involved in. They found the maths assessments rather hard and very time consuming, but they greatly enjoyed evaluating their own practice and thinking and researching new or alternative ways of teaching maths. The children have benefitted greatly from our varied programme and our new resources and they all seem to enjoy doing maths-related activities. In our monthly tracking, we have noticed that all the children are performing at the expected level or above in Mathematics.

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

Our aim was to evaluate our practice and improve it as much as possible, as this will, in turn, help our children develop well and learn to love maths. This expectation has certainly been reached.

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

We have improved our knowledge of maths-based activities and purchased new resources to help make our activities more holistic and interesting. We have understood that it would be best for us to create a curriculum in maths, so we ensure parallel learning for all children, both present and future.

Next steps

We intend to continue working to enhance our practice in all areas of learning. We aim to do this by creating a curriculum for all areas, as this will help guide the practitioners and ensure that the children are properly prepared for when they go to school.

The curriculum will be created by the deputies after collaboration with all the practitioners and after consultation with the parents. It will also, of course, follow the outcomes of the EYFS Development Matters.

National Day Nurseries Association

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