

Maths Champions Case Study

INTENT
Introduction <i>A little bit about your setting, why you joined the programme and what you wanted to achieve from it.</i>
Our pre-School takes children from 2 years 9 months to 4 years, we are open 8.50-3.30, 5 days a week, term time only. As part of my role as practitioner at the Pre-School, I help children to learn and develop through a range of activities and play, treating every child as an individual and enhancing their learning to their specific needs and development. We have a high proportion of funded 3-year-olds in this setting. The maths champion programme was a great opportunity for our pre-school to take part in, as it would benefit the pre-school for many years to come. We wanted to engage in something that would impact on all children, staff and parents, we also hoped it would change the way we teach maths in the setting. We were keen to learn new skills and develop better understanding and knowledge of how to deliver maths within the pre-school. We wanted to learn new ways of enhancing and supporting maths to develop children's learning further. I volunteered to lead the programme to gain a better understanding of early maths and how to enhance children's development further in this area. I also wanted to gain more confidence to deliver maths training in the pre-school to all staff.
How did you decide what to do? <i>What did the audits highlight, what changes did you consider and how did you identify the change/s to be made? Did the changes you considered come from the online training or resources etc?</i>
On starting, the Deputy Maths Champion and I worked closely to share ideas on what we wanted to gain from this programme. The courses were really informative and gave us lots of new ideas to enhance our maths within the pre-school. I found the webinars and slides really helpful in helping me to understand how to use the correct maths wording and how to deliver and enhance children's learning further. We decided to dedicate a wall within our setting to show staff and parents the key words and what they mean and how we deliver it into our pre-school. We also displayed the activities we did with the children with photos. We learnt by doing staff audits we needed to update our maths resources, it also showed some staff needed more support to deliver maths activities across the pre-school.
IMPLEMENTATION
What did you change or implement? <i>Outline a positive change, or changes, that have taken place as a result of being part of the Maths Champions programme. How did you plan for it and what did you do? How did you plan to assess the benefit of the change on staff practice and children's experiences?</i>
We started to look around for new maths activities and resources that we could use in our setting to help children develop their maths skills and knowledge further. We asked the other members of staff what maths resources would be good for our pre-school, we looked at what would work, if the children would enjoy it and what would the children gain from the new resources and activities. We decided to purchase a few key resources such as calculators, weighing scales, counting cubes and a few maths puzzles. I also made a few new games which concentrated on number, counting and cardinality. One of the games was called penguin lotto, the children had to listen and look at what I was saying or doing. I would hold so many fingers up or I would say the number, if the children knew the number and had it, they covered it up with a counter and whoever covered them all came 1st and so on. We also used the weighing scales to work out which things were light and heavy. Once we demonstrated this a couple of times, we encouraged the children to guess which objects were heavy and light. We used the cubes to measure different objects e.g. pencils, cars, books paper etc, asking children to estimate how many cubes each object might need.



IMPACT	
The success and benefit of what you did:	
For children	<i>What has been the impact of the changes on children's learning and development? How has being involved in the programme made a difference for children in your nursery?</i>
The Maths Champions Programme gave the children more learning opportunities through using the new maths equipment. Children's maths language has developed, more children are using maths language through a variety of activities and play. Parents have commented on how much their children's maths language and counting, and number recognition has improved.	
For families	<i>What has been the impact of the changes on families? How has being involved in the programme made a difference for families whose children attend your nursery?</i>
Parents are able help their children develop their mathematical skills and language further by following ideas we have used within the pre-school. Parents have commented they notice their children using more language at home, like "can I have some more""if I add 1 more, I have 2". They have also commented on how they count using fingers or objects around their home.	
For staff	<i>How has being involved in the programme made a difference to your staff team/individual practitioners? What has been the impact on their practice?</i>
Our staff told us they feel more confident to enhance the children's maths skills and language through their new knowledge and understanding of maths. They feel that the maths programme has helped them to understand how to deliver maths learning experiences in a fun way. Staff comment that the maths information wall is a great way of visual reminders of the maths terms and language. I decided to take on the role of looking at maths activities and games which I could implement every week, I then share all the ideas with the rest of the staff.	
For the Maths Champion and Deputy Maths Champion	<i>How has the programme helped you as Maths Champion and Deputy Maths Champion to develop your own practice? What has been the impact on your practice?</i>
As Maths Champions we have developed a better knowledge and understanding of maths language and how to implement it into the pre-school. We found the resources section very useful, especially when we needed a maths activity or game to try. We found the programme had given us the skills and confidence to deliver maths to all children that join us at pre -school now and in the future.	
For the setting	<i>What has been the impact on your environment?</i>
As a result of the programme, I found that maths is more widely used by everyone, we can hear staff modelling more maths language in everyday activities and games, we can hear questions like how many have you got, how many more do you need.	



Next steps

What further improvements might you make and how will you continue to monitor the quality of maths opportunities within the setting?

We plan to keep looking for new resources and games that can keep enhancing children's learning further. We are planning on adding more resources into our outdoor environment and to extend this into our mud kitchen. We will keep all staff, including any new staff that start with us updated on new ideas and we will encourage them to share their ideas with the rest of us. I will continue to take the lead on delivering maths at the preschool whilst the rest of the staff will work with me to research and implement ideas.

Thank you for taking part in the Maths Champions programme.