

Maths Champions Case Study

Champion: Melanie Walker

Setting: St Barnabas C.E Primary School

INTENT
Introduction <i>A little bit about your setting, why you joined the programme and what you wanted to achieve from it.</i> I am the Nursery teacher, working with an experienced EYFS Teaching Assistant. We have 17 full time children and 17 part time children. There has been a new maths scheme introduced this year from Reception to Year 6 called 'Maths No Problem.' I was keen to take part in the Maths Champions Programme as it offered the opportunity for supporting the development of mathematical teaching and learning in Nursery, and therefore contributing to the school wide target of improving standards in mathematics.
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> The audits clearly provided a focus for developing children's mathematical learning through practical experiences and providing resources that are readily available for children to use to practise, consolidate and extend their learning. The core activities were an excellent tool to address the focus for our Nursery. We benefited from the fact that each core activity was designed to be introduced by a staff member then incorporated into everyday learning. This gave us the freedom and time to try all the suggested activities, to adapt them and to repeat them. The pace of weekly core activities supported the approach of providing adequate time for children to practise, consolidate and extend their learning.
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> Maths activities that have been adult-led, such as the core activities, now remain in the environment as part of continuous provision. It is a joy to observe children being 'the teacher' and rehearsing the activity with their peers. They love using the finger pointer and the flipchart! The core activities were all excellent examples of learning through play, and the children particularly enjoyed it when the adult was playing with them, again and again!
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>

Maths resources are now more widely available than in the designated 'Maths Area.' The core activities demonstrated that mathematical concepts can be taught, rehearsed and consolidated using resources across all areas of learning. For example, the capacity activity worked really well to support our Nursery Rhyme topic (I'm a little teapot & Polly put the kettle on). It is useful to leave an adult model alongside the resources. For example, a square or a rectangle that has already been made with the super strut's construction set inspired children to build 2D shapes.

For families

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 use 'Class Dojo' as a platform for daily communication with parents. It has been so simple and quick to take photographs of the children engaged in the core activities, with a brief explanation of the learning involved. I know that this has had a positive impact because the response has been huge. On a daily basis there has been an average of at least 20 parents viewing the post on Class Dojo, many 'like' the post and some respond with a comment. A few parents have submitted examples of their children's learning at home through the individual portfolios. I feel that this has raised the profile of mathematical learning and supported parents in their understanding of this area of the curriculum. (Literacy is generally more widely understood and supported by parents - bedtime stories, etc.)

For staff

How has being involved in the programme made a difference to your staff team/individual practitioners? What has been the impact on their practice?

Both my Teaching Assistant and I are experienced EYFS practitioners but welcomed the opportunity to refresh and replenish our repertoire of mathematical activities. The Resources Section has been invaluable in providing a bank of reference for us to support our planning. I invited my Teaching Assistant to join the webinars which she appreciated for her own professional development.

For the Maths Champion and Deputy Maths Champion

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 can remember feeling inspired when I was completing the initial training sessions - it felt so refreshing to be accessing CPD that was specific and relevant to Nursery. I was keen to reach Step 7 so that I could access the Resources Section. I have now printed them off and have created a folder of the resources for staff to use in the Nursery.

For the setting

What has been the impact on your environment?

Having taught in Nursery for over 10 years this programme provided an excellent opportunity for me to review my practice. Very importantly, this included reviewing the environment which impacts greatly on children's learning.

Next steps

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

I have been given money in the resource budget for outdoors and am keen to develop the resources that will support mathematical development on a larger scale. I will explore additional ways of sharing ideas of mathematical 'learning through play' with parents. This may be through workshops or information shared on the school website.

Thank you for taking part in the Maths Champions programme.