

Maths Champions Case Study

Champion: Kirsty Cairns

Setting: The Olive Tree Nursery

INTENT
Introduction <i>A little bit about your setting, why you joined the programme and what you wanted to achieve from it.</i> We are a 90 places setting based in quite a deprived area of Bridgwater. We have a considerable number of children with EAL Children and some children with high SEN needs. We have 5 rooms in the nursery, and we take children from three months old. We have two preschool rooms. We wanted to take part in the maths championship because we wanted support on how we could improve the setting and support staff to help the children develop more complex maths skills.
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 were useful as we assessed both our preschool rooms, and we could identify things we were lacking. For example, we needed more mark making opportunities outside that supported maths. I looked at different things we could do and looked online for ideas.
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> Our garden area has really improved with lots more opportunities for the children. We looked at what needed doing and worked on our action plan. We ordered resources, printed resources and laminated them.
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> By taking part in the programme, it has educated the staff ensure we are provided the necessary equipment and activities for children to thrive. You can see by children's development they have learnt key skills they will need for school. Reflecting on past years, children didn't show as much independent maths learning or use lots of maths in their play. Children seem to have a deeper understanding of numbers and their uses.
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>
We are still currently working on ways in which we can support children more at home. We have lots of plans for the new terms including topic sheets to go home, topic library (So parents can borrow books to support children's learning at 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>
Staff feel more empowered and confident to teach maths. Staff understand themselves the important of teaching the children and not just observing them and assuming they know. Staff are now checking knowledge and revisiting key skills within different topics and themes.
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>
The programme has definitely helped. I have learnt a lot myself which has enabled me to support others. I learnt things that I generally didn't know before. It has given me lots of ideas for activities and ways we can improve the settings maths.
For the setting <i>What has been the impact on your environment?</i>
We have changed lots of areas of the nursery incorporating more maths in lots of different ways. We have used ideas and training to influence the ways in which we set up activities and keep the children engaged.
Next steps <i>What further improvements might you make and how will you continue to monitor the quality of maths opportunities within the setting?</i>
We still have lots of work to do to improve our curriculum and the way we teach maths. We are meeting as leaders of learning on how we can simplify what adults need to teach children.

Thank you for taking part in the Maths Champions programme.