

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>
We are a privately owned setting of 34 children in a rural location just outside Tewkesbury. We joined the programme as staff confidence around maths was very low. We were hoping to give our staff confidence to have maths running through all activities and in turn further develop the children's understanding.
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 audit highlighted that although the staff were carrying out lots of fun learning opportunities, very often the maths development opportunities were missed or not fully utilised. During a staff meeting we discussed our provision and put together a plan of what needed to be improved or introduced. We decided to utilise the core activity resources to build mathematical language, promote estimating and measuring. We also drew up a list of resources we might need to help us complete our vision. We needed to improve the environment with maths rich displays, opportunities for the children to problem solve and encourage the parents to take on some maths promotion at home.
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 introduced numbers into snack time by encouraging the children to count out a number of pieces of fruit which changed every day. The children were also encouraged to pour their own drinks to help with estimation (how much do we need to stop the cup from over filling.) This was a fairly simple change as the children were able to understand the concept straight away. This has developed the children's instant recognition of a number just by seeing it without having to use their fingers to count up to it. This has also improved their ability to spot numbers whilst out and about, door numbers, numbers on drain covers, post box, cars etc. The staff produced some numbered cards which were placed next to the snack (a different one each day, which told the children how many pieces of fruit they could have on their plate.) We purchased some small jugs so that the children could easily pour from them, recently increasing to larger ones as they have become more confident. The benefits were assessed by observation of the children and staff as well as an increase in number language from the children during play and whilst out and about. It has focused the staff on using number language at every opportunity so that the children are exposed to it consistently from all staff.
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>

All children have started to use number language in the play and observations by staff have started to show this. Children have become more aware of numbers around them and love to tell us when they see a number in a strange place for example on a tractor tyre, on a drain cover, on a front door and on buses that pass them in the street.

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?

The parents have been onboard from day one and have enjoyed the journey with us, often reporting their conversations at home and the improvement they have seen in their child's mathematical development. Feedback from our recent parents evening has proved that they have enjoyed the maths focus and feel it has been a worthwhile project to be part of.

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?

The programme has had a huge impact on the consistency of the use of number language by all staff, it is now threaded through all learning opportunities. It has also helped the staff to find interesting, fun ways to promote maths development to children of all ages.

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?

As maths champion this programme has helped me to focus on the mathematical development of the children across all ages and to ensure that observations and planning factor in the maths language and development to assist the children in their learning. There has been a renewed interest in the subject by all staff who actively look for the maths development opportunities in all activities with all ages.

For the setting

What has been the impact on your environment?

The environment now displays many mathematical words and pictures, the staff are consistently using opportunities to embed maths language into our everyday provision. Overall, the children's awareness of maths has greatly improved, and it is now something they do effortlessly in all areas of their play.

Next steps

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

We will continue to ensure mathematical language is used during all activities, maintain a maths rich environment and always look at new resources from a mathematical point of view. Observation, parents and staff feedback as well as the development of the children will all play a part in monitoring the quality of maths opportunities within our setting. We will also liaise closely with the schools we feed to see if there are any significant differences in our children compared to those they receive from other settings.



Thank you for taking part in the Maths Champions programme.