

Maths Champions Case Study

Champion: Joanne Monery

Setting: Bright Stars Nursery

INTENT	
Introduction	<i>A little bit about your setting, why you joined the programme and what you wanted to achieve from it.</i>
	In October 2021 I was promoted to the deputy manager role and SENCO in the nursery. As part of the role, I lead in supporting in developing the nursery. I also support staff with their skills and abilities within in the setting. We are a 75 place nursery and take children from four months to five years and we are open 8am to 6pm all year round. We have an average portion of funded 2-year-old children as we are a private provision. Due to COVID some of our children entered the setting slightly below age related expectations. The Maths Champion programme has been an excellent opportunity for our nursery, to take part in something that will have a long-lasting impact on our children and staff. We are keen to develop our knowledge and practice, identifying new and interesting ways in order to further enhance children`s development.
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 Deputy Maths Champion and I firstly completed the online training courses, we knew the training for the courses was optional for the Deputy Maths Champion, but we felt they would be beneficial for us both to have the knowledge enabling us to work closely together to have the greatest impact. The courses were extremely informative and introduced us to a wide range of maths concepts which has made us assess our children`s knowledge in mathematics correctly. We completed the audits and we`re lucky as we have a lot of resources available to us across the setting. The things we did not have I chose to obtain. We had a challenge at one point where we had 3 members of staff leave us, so we had to re-train new members of staff in the room, but we were able to do this as Champions.
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 immediately moved forward looking at opportunities for everyday maths exploration. With regards to loose parts, we have already got an area for this, and we use it everyday, however Math Champions has helped us extend this activity for the children giving us a lot more ideas. We hold regular staff meetings to discuss with staff the core activities that have been implemented in the room.

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 Champion programme has lead us to make some great changes to our environment which has greatly extended staffs knowledge and understanding of how important mathematics is within our setting to support the children. Children have gained a greater knowledge of mathematics. We have seen children's confidence grow during the programme, and they are using more mathematical language.
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 have sent home all of the core activities, sharing these with parents and supporting them in adapting them and implementing these at home. The parents have made comments that their children are using mathematical language more confidently. We have had a lot of positive feedback and parents have expressed how they appreciate staff sharing ideas with them.
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 they have learnt a vast amount on how to implement activities based around maths throughout the setting. The deputy and I have observed this in practice where we have seen the staff grow in confidence. Staff have taken time to research new ideas and share these amongst themselves which will help to sustain the improvements we started through the programme. In general staff's attitudes towards maths is a lot more positive in our setting.
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 Champion and Deputy Maths Champion the programme has given us greater knowledge and understanding of how to implement maths successfully into our setting. We found the online training very useful as we could access this whenever convenient to us. We have gained a greater knowledge in mathematical concepts. Thank you.
For the setting <i>What has been the impact on your environment?</i> Maths is much more prominent in our nursery since being involved in the Maths Champion programme and the children have greatly benefited from this which is being observed all the time. We especially like the tidy up time core activity and the snack time core activity. We are continually looking at new exciting ways to enhance our maths learning.



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 reinforcing the core activities and sharing new ideas across our setting. We also have a further 3 branches which we are going to role the Maths Champion out across these.

Thank you for taking part in the Maths Champions programme.