

Maths Champions Case Study

Champion: Amanda Wall

Setting: Wath Court Nursery

INTENT

Introduction

A little bit about your setting, why you joined the programme and what you wanted to achieve from it.



I am the Manager of Wath Court Nursery. I have worked in the nursery for 21 years (10 as the pre-school leader and 11 of them as the manager) I am always trying to improve my knowledge and what I can offer to the nursery and the team around me.

We are a 58 place nursery which takes babies right through to when they leave for primary school. We are open 8am – 6pm all year round.

The Maths Champion programme was a great opportunity for me to develop maths across the nursery to increase the staff's confidence in maths and to ensure the children in our care receive the best learning opportunities to set them up for their future.

I was very happy to take on the role as the Maths Champion. My Deputy Maths Champion is our pre-school leader and she is always looking at new ideas and training to implement with her group of children.

How did you decide what to do?

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?

Firstly I did the three online training courses to deepen my knowledge about maths. The courses were great and I was able to pull lots of useful information and tips from them to share with my team and implement.

I then completed the staff confidence audits and the learning environment audit. As an outstanding setting it was very clear to me that our core provision was already amazing but we still had room for improvement. We are lucky to be set in the countryside so we have access to natural maths resources.

I decided that I would look to see what gaps we had in the already fantastic maths provision. I also wanted to look at supporting my team's maths confidence and belief in their developing skills. It also highlighted that some of the team were experienced practitioners and that the newer members and apprentices were less confident and would need more guidance and support to develop their maths skills and knowledge.

I also decided to focus on our links with parents through maths and to increase resources linked to ICT across the nursery which I have always found to be an area to keep an eye on.

IMPLEMENTATION

What did you change or implement?

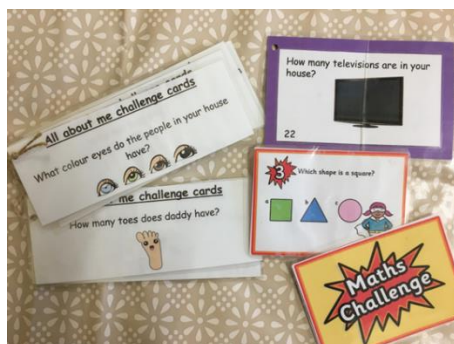
Outline a positive change, or changes, that have taken place as a result of being part of the Maths Champions programme. How did you plan for it and what did you do? How did you plan to assess the benefit of the change on staff practice and children's experiences?

Firstly I decided to introduce the programme to my team at the staff meeting. The team were very keen to participate in the maths programme and responded very well. I feel that this really got my team thinking about maths more and actually made them realise how amazing they are and how much maths they already contribute to the setting without realising.

After the room meeting the teams decided what new maths ideas they would gradually introduce to their rooms. Some ideas of these things were..

- Numbers onto mark making pots.
- Calendars in the role play areas.
- Home learning area, home learning challenge cards for all ages.
- New play money in the role play areas.
- Calculators and old phones.
- Maths interest table.
- Update maths flash cards.
- Add maths links into room letters and newsletters.
- Maths outdoors.

To develop our already strong links with parents we created some maths challenge cards. These were created in every room. These are then sent out with the babies/children. The staff explained the cards to the parents and encouraged them to support their children at home with these challenges. The responses from the families are now logged in the children's learning journeys.



I added maths into my staff meeting agenda to ensure that maths is always discussed as a team each month. I handed out CPD information sheets to my team (at each monthly staff meeting) to add to their personal boards to refer to when needed. E.g. 'Glossary of terms' 'How counting helps' 'Improving mathematics in the early years'

Each apprentice had a mentor within the setting already so they were a good support for them to link to with regards to their maths knowledge and development. The apprentices have told me that they are already feeling



more confident in maths and feel that they now know what to look out for more and feel they know how to use the resources better to develop the children's maths learning.

IMPACT

The success and benefit of what you did:

For children

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?

The Maths Champion programme has resulted in our nursery having a wider range of maths resources available for the children. We have found that the children are now playing with the resources better as they are more skilled and knowledgeable in maths.

We have found that the children's language has improved due to better conversations about maths and sustained conversations between the children and the practitioners.

The children are showing fantastic developing in maths across the nursery and those that need extra support or challenging are receiving this.

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?

Parents feedback to us about how they now understand more about how they can support their children in maths at home due to our support and new home learning challenge cards.

Parents have informed us how much more maths they are seeing from their children at home which is coming from experiences they are getting while at nursery.

Parents have given us positive feedback about the home challenge cards and asked for more to be sent home.

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?

I feel that the programme has really made the team think about maths in a positive way.

The team are creating the most wonderful learning opportunities for the babies and children and seem very proud of how their confidence in maths has grown.

The less confident staff are also taking on more maths responsibilities and bringing lots of new ideas to the nursery. Maths is always discussed in the team meetings, and this has become a real positive way of looking at maths provision and development within the different 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 the nursery manager this programme has helped me to ensure the nursery have now got a robust maths curriculum and provision. The CPD courses and equipment has inspired me to support my team and increased my knowledge. I have spent lots of time with my team to support them with maths and had many conversations about the fantastic maths I have seen throughout the programme. The training courses were very useful and also the glossary of terms was also a great document for me to give to all new staff members who join the team.



For the setting

What has been the impact on your environment?

Maths is definitely more obvious throughout the nursery and is talked about so much more within the teams here. Maths is a positive word and the children seem to love all the wonderful new experiences.

There are lots of new resources available to support maths across the whole nursery. These have all come about through our audit of the environment and we will continue to look for new and exciting ways that the environment can support children's maths learning during their time with us.

Next steps

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

- I would like to implement a maths lead in each room going forward.
- I will assess maths throughout the nursery termly with the senior team.
- Continue to implement new maths ideas that the team have.