

Specialist Knowledge for Teaching Mathematics Programmes: Early Years

Programme Information Sheet



Overview

This work group will develop participant's mathematical subject knowledge in conjunction with understanding the pedagogy that underpins the teaching of it. Understanding of mathematical structures will be explored so participants gain a detailed understanding of how children learn early mathematical concepts.

As a result of this project, participants will not only be able to 'do' mathematics, but will also have the appropriate pedagogical knowledge to teach and support their pupils well. Participants will develop both their knowledge about maths and knowledge about the teaching of maths, developing better pedagogy and being aware of how pupils learn, and how to teach the content most effectively. Classroom practice will develop through participants' engagement with gap tasks between meetings, trying out activities with pupils to promote understanding, reasoning and fluency.

Who is this for?

The programme is aimed at individuals or groups of individuals who would like to develop their specialist knowledge for teaching mathematics. This may be particularly relevant for teachers new to teaching mathematics in the Early Years.

What is involved?

Classroom practice will develop through a series of gap tasks where participants try out activities to promote depth of understanding, reasoning and fluency; these might include pupil interviews, lesson study and work scrutiny. Research and evidence are used to inform their practice and participants are encouraged to share these more widely in schools to support discussion on current policies and approaches.

The programme will have the following elements:

- Independent study and setting-based work including gap tasks and evaluation
- Online discussion as part of a professional community.

Venue and dates to be released shortly.

The wider context

The Maths Hubs Network, across England, works on national projects by running local collaborative Work Groups of teachers around national maths education priority areas. One such priority is to improve the subject knowledge of all adults in maths classrooms.

Work Groups use a common evaluation process, which collectively provides a body of evidence on the project's outcomes. Your participation in this Work Group will contribute to your own professional learning and that of your colleagues, as well as contributing to the improvement of maths education at a national level.

Expectations of participants and their schools

Participants are expected to be working as classroom teachers or teaching assistants. TAs should be working in a classroom environment and/or involved with individual or small group support and intervention

All participants are expected to attend all the sessions and complete gap tasks in their schools between the sessions. They will also be asked to keep a learning log for their own use and contribute to the national evaluation process, probably through a short online survey after the Work Group has finished.

Funding

This work group is free to attend, however there is a charge of £100 per participant for non-attendance without prior notice.

Who is leading the Work Group?

Marie Heinst is an independent education consultant who works nationally specialising in Early Years, mathematics education, school improvement and the development of leadership at all levels. She is also involved in a number of national projects including the Education Endowment Fund.

If you're interested, what next?

To register your interest, please contact info@solentmathshub.org.uk