

Monkchester Road Nursery School - Mathematics Intent and Implementation

Maths is an important part of learning for all children in the early years and receiving a good grounding in maths is an essential life skill. As well as helping children develop numeracy, it helps skills such as problem solving, understanding and using shapes and measure and developing their own spatial awareness.

At Monkchester Road Nursery we want our children to become confident mathematicians who can apply what they have learnt to real life experiences. Children learn about maths through play and in their daily experiences at Nursery, inside and outdoors. When staff make maths activities more meaningful to children and allow them to use maths hands on it is all the better.

Children at Monkchester Road Nursery are exposed to a variety of interesting and stimulating objects and resources to explore, including toys that play music or make noises when shaken or moved in a particular way (cause and effect toys). We have a wide variety of equipment that can be sorted or matched and endless opportunities for 'filling and emptying'.

From the playgroup and upwards children gain an awareness of time as staff support them to follow daily routines – singing songs, following visual timetables and using picture prompts. Number and counting rhymes are an integral part of the nursery day at each stage of our children's learning. The songs we use are planned to match children's understanding of mathematical concepts at each stage of their development. As our children's mathematical understanding grows staff use their knowledge and expertise to plan for a high-quality learning environment, which provides them with many opportunities to explore different aspects of number, shape, space and measures.

The environment both inside and outside is full of mathematical opportunities and has exciting things for children to explore, sort, compare, count, calculate and describe including 'loose' parts play and various construction materials on a small and large scale. We use our forest and garden activities to introduce children to wide ranging natural materials and bring these inside as part of our collections for children to sort, match and count. With a combination of direct group teaching, high quality interactions, objective led planning and observing children's independent play, staff model new language and support the children to be creative and critical thinkers, using their mathematical awareness to have a go and become problem solvers.



Our continuous provision provides children with opportunities to explore, investigate and learn independently, allowing them to revisit, repeat and build upon their learning each day. Skilled staff support children's development through high-quality interactions, carefully observing their interests and needs. These observations inform the ongoing enhancement of our provision, ensuring that children's interests are reflected and used to extend and enrich their learning experiences.

We warmly invite parents and carers to join us for our termly Stay and Play sessions, providing an opportunity to see our approach to mathematics in action and observe children exploring, developing and applying their mathematical understanding through play and learning.

We also provide Parent/Carer Guides to help families support children's mathematical learning at home through easy and fun games and everyday routines.