

Paula Szpakowski, EYFS Leader at Pooles Park Primary School in Islington has been using Mathseeds with her early years children since February.

1 How are you using Mathseeds with your class?

We use some Mathseeds lessons for some of our 'carpet sessions' to help consolidate certain concepts (e.g. doubling). We pick and choose which parts to use based on our children's needs. Most of our teaching tends to be hands-on but it is useful to access alternative techniques so that different learning styles are catered for. We also use the Mathseeds lessons to teach small, targeted groups, so that all children in the group can take turns on the interactive whiteboard. I sometimes leave the Mathseeds program open during child initiated playtime, so that children can use it without adult support. In addition, we have sent passwords home so that children can use Mathseeds at home. We have also used some of the 'worksheets' for children to choose during child initiated play and/or for home work.



2 Would you agree that Mathseeds is highly engaging for your early years learners?

Yes. The children like the characters. My class particularly enjoy the songs.

3 How does Mathseeds compare to other early years maths resources that you may have used in your school?

Our Early Years Department tends not to stick to one maths scheme. We use a variety of teaching methods. However, we all enjoy using Numicon. Mathseeds does not interfere with the Numicon teaching method so we are able to use both alongside each other.

4 Do your pupils enjoy using Mathseeds and would you say that it's helping to build their confidence in maths?

The children definitely enjoy the Mathseeds input at carpet time. Some children have talked to me about using it at home. I do feel that is designed in a way that helps children to feel mathematically competent.

5 What would you say are the main benefits to using Mathseeds for early years learners at your school?

It is flexible. It has excellent 'teacher resources'. It is fun for children and is formatted in a way that is engaging and familiar to them.

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6 What is your favourite part of Mathseeds?

The flexibility – the ‘pick and mix’ aspect. I also like the fact that Mathseeds generates a letter and password for each parent – so cutting down on teachers’ work.

7 In what ways do you think does Mathseeds helps to foster a ‘Growth Mindset’?

At home, children can move through the lessons at their own pace and are ‘rewarded’ for the effort they put in.



8 Have you found that Mathseeds motivates children who thought they were ‘not good at maths’ before?

Fortunately, not many of my class feel they are ‘not good at maths’. However, I do think the way the lessons practise the same concept in slightly different ways enables children to keep consolidating their learning while experiencing success.

9 Do you think the Gamification factor of Mathseeds will contribute to your students’ enthusiasm?

This age group are very motivated by rewards and games, so I should think it would be an encouraging aspect of the program.

10 Would you recommend Mathseeds to other schools?

As an alternative/additional resource to practical maths, yes.



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