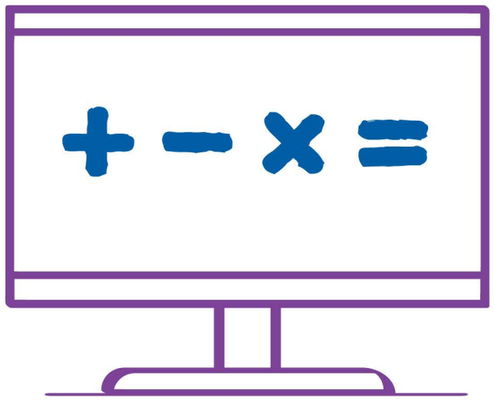
Education Scotland
Foghlam Alba

BLOG

BUALNALUIB
Bookshelf of Reading and Research



Go to:

Highland Numeracy and Maths

NZMATHS
The home of mathematics education in NewZeland

BUALNALUIB
Primary School

January 2021

The journey began with a Highland Numeracy CPD opportunity which I attended first as a probationer in 2013 and a follow up in September 2015. Reflecting on the CPD I realised that as a pupil myself I consistently counted on my fingers, I didn't understand place value and opened my eyes to the importance of teaching understanding of numbers by using materials in a visual way before introducing the abstract.

Highland Numeracy took learning and teaching approaches first described in New Zealand Maths programme and transcribed them into a more accessible format. They produced the Highland Numeracy Progression across Early, First and Second Levels.

Numeracy is taught four days a week. My composite P1-3 class is split into 4 groups. In the hour long Maths session each day we begin with a counting together activity (counting chorus) followed by 2 x 20 mins teaching sessions while the other groups consolidate knowledge and strategies through play opportunities and games. Each group's teaching session begins with a diagnostic question and teaching leads on from the children's answers. Each group has a tray of 3 games and they play the same games several times to reinforce the learning.

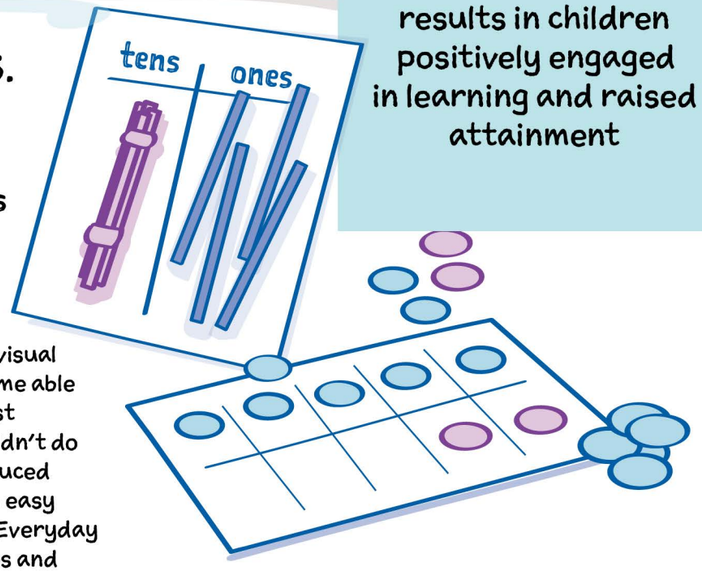
I use readily available and easy to administer diagnostic tests to determine where children are in their learning. Children are then taught appropriate knowledge and strategies to enable progression. Resources such as: dice patterns, tens frames, abacus, double sided counters, Numicon, bead strings and games available free from the New Zealand Math's website and well known online resource websites. I teach my class how to image pictures of the value of numbers in their heads and subsequently what addition/subtraction computations really looks like. With lots of visual and hands on experience like this they become able to split and partition numbers to enable fast addition and subtraction in a way they couldn't do before. Multiplication processes are introduced visually in the form of arrays which enables easy computation in multiplication and division. Everyday objects such as egg boxes, natural resources and classroom materials are all used creatively to progress children's learning.

My practice was observed by a Numeracy Development Officer who asked me to join the Highland Numeracy Steering Group. This enabled me to contribute to ongoing development across Highland.

Impact has been evidenced by raised attainment in Numeracy, children having increased confidence in explaining how they get their answers and evident enjoyment in the Math's lesson which has engendered a positive attitude to Maths. We are able to tailor activities to their interests such as bugs, Lego and character interests in Maths.

Emily Ross, Class Teacher

ACTIVE AND PROGRESSIVE TEACHING APPROACHES **in numeracy and mathematics** results in children positively engaged in learning and raised attainment



» Visit hub page «

» Read full report «

Highly effective practice identified through inspection