Progression of Skills: Addition and Subtraction



- Interactive whiteboards are non-reflective to reduce glare.
- Seating should allow all pupils in the class to communicate, respond and interact with each other and the teacher in discussions.
- Avoid the need for copying lots of information. For example, notes on interactive whiteboards can be printed off for all pupils.
- Use systems such as racks so that maths equipment can be checked out and checked back in.
- Some pupils may need modified maths equipment. In particular, some may need access to tactile and other specialist equipment for work relating to shape, space and measures, to overcome difficulties in managing visual information.


## Multi-sensory approaches, including ICT

- Find out how pupils prefer to learn mathematics. There is no reason why the term 'learning style' should be restricted to the well-known visual, auditory and kinaesthetic styles. Many pupils, for instance, particularly value learning through ICT of one kind or another.
- Build on pupils' preferred learning styles when explaining mathematical concepts, by exploiting different media - eg stories, acting out processes, models, computer simulations, animations, concept mapping etc. There should be "something to see, something to listen to and something to do at each stage of mathematical development" (El-Naggar, 1996).
- Explore concepts in different forms - eg as a word-sentence, sequence of body language, picture, graph or equation. Puppets, mascots and objects add fun and elements of surprise to lessons, and action songs, games and rhymes encourage a physical response.
- Use concrete or visual support for mathematical discussions whenever possible.
- Exploit the many forms of mathematical representation - eg pie charts, number lines, abacus, bar charts, tiles - and the connections between them. ICT can enable pupils to switch quickly between different representations.
- react quickly to opportunities ""for mathematical thought in their environment - eg taking photographs of patterns on a wall with a digital camera and analysing them on the computer


## Working with additional adults

Plan, where appropriate, for:

- pupils to be pre-tutored in ""important mathematical vocabulary, concepts and/or processes
- 'scaffolding' when pupils use ""equipment, especially for tasks requiring accuracy or skill (eg drawing or measurement), and
- help for pupils - eg pupils with ""a hearing impairment - to interpret or respond to oral aspects of mathematics lessons such as mental mathematics.
- Prepare resources - eg pre-prepared grids for recording information can be helpful for some pupils.
- Tightly targeted mathematics interventions for individual pupils can be highly effective, even if they only take a short time each week


## Adult Pupil communication

- Recognise that the language of mathematics may be challenging for many pupils. For example: the specific mathematical use ""of everyday words such as 'tables', 'translate', 'right angle'
- terms specific to mathematics ""- eg 'digit', 'subtract' terms such as 'height', 'distance' ""or 'mass' can create barriers for some pupils, because of their abstract nature.
- Plan to teach new vocabulary explicitly and make sure that pre-tutoring on mathematical vocabulary is available for pupils who need it.
- Give pupils with communication impairments time to answer open-ended questions.
- Use discussion of mathematical investigations to inform pupils' development of mathematical language and help them to analyse and understand what they have seen.
- In a plenary after the class has completed a task, allow pupils time to discuss the answers to questions in pairs, before asking for verbal responses.


## Assessment for Learning

- Lesson objectives are made clear in pictures/symbols/writing, as appropriate.
- Objectives are challenging yet achievable. This will promote self-esteem and enable all pupils to achieve success.
- Pupils' own ways of learning and remembering things are emphasised.
- Pupils are encouraged to talk about how they achieved something. Dialogue is the key to successful assessment for learning. Teachers communicate in ways pupils are comfortable with.
- Pupils are encouraged to look back to previous work/photos/records to see how much progress they have made.
- Give feedback in terms of the information that will help pupils improve their performance.
- Emphasis is on the pupils' progress and achievement. Weaknesses are presented as areas for development. Opportunities are offered for pupils to attempt a piece of work again. These approaches are particularly useful for pupils who find it difficult to receive comments about improving their work.
- Assessment looks at what pupils know and can do, not at labels associated with SEN and/or disabilities.
- Notes made about individual pupils' difficulties/successes in the lesson take account of their oral contributions as well as their written work.


## Memory / Consolidation

- The amount of material to be remembered is reduced. Repeat or display important information.
- The meaningfulness and familiarity of the material is increased.
- Mental processing and explanations of complex tasks are simplified.
- The use of memory aids is encouraged. These can include working wall, cubes, counters, abacus, Unifix blocks, number lines, multiplication grids, calculators, memory cards.
- Activities are structured so that pupils can use available resources, such as manipulatives
- New learning fits into the framework of what the pupil already knows.
- Teaching assistants prepare pupils to contribute to feedback sessions, where appropriate.
- Using visual or concrete ('real') materials, or activities involving movement, to reinforce or consolidate learning through a range of sensory channels.
- Encourage pupils to develop their own strategies, eg an agreed approach to asking for help, rehearsal, note-taking, use of long-term memory, and place-keeping and organisational strategies.

