

**Catch Up Numeracy in North Lanarkshire Council (NLC)
March 2010 to June 2010**

North Lanarkshire Council is the first local authority in Scotland to pilot Catch Up Numeracy

11 schools were involved in the Catch Up Numeracy pilot. Following an initial information session for the Head Teachers of the nominated schools, training was held for Classroom Assistants and one member of the management team from each school, either a Depute Head Teacher (DHT) or a Principle Teacher (PT).

11 schools trained on 23rd, 24th & 25th March 2010. Training was delivered by Sue Walker, Head of Training, Catch Up.

The pilot was coordinated by Vicky Quinn, Quality Improvement Officer, NLC

Schools and Personnel

No. of schools	No. of CAS	No. of DHT's / PT's	No. of Trainees
11	22	11	33

Impact - Quantitative:

At the beginning of the pilot, 66 children were tested using a standardised number/maths test and 54 of these children were retested at the end of the pilot. These test scores were used to calculate the Number/Maths Age gain in months for each pupil.

For these 54 learners:

Average duration of intervention (months)	2.56
Average Number/Maths Age gain (months)	8.46
Average Ratio Gain (based on test to test)	3.52

(The ratio gain is the improvement compared to that expected for a typical pupil. This means that that, on average, the pupils progressed at over 3 and half times the expected rate.)

On average, the learners 'caught up' with their peers.

Impact – Qualitative:

From our LA network meeting with Depute Head Teachers/ Principal Teachers, we received the following positive feedback:

- Children enjoy one - to - one input
- Classroom Assistants are developing confidence
- Feedback from parents of those involved in Catch Up Numeracy is positive
- Staff are satisfied / happy Catch Up Numeracy is making a difference

Why is it working?

- Commitment for the trained personnel within pilot schools
- Local Authority Support
- Support available from the Catch Up trainers and wider community
- The quality of the Catch Up Numeracy training and resource package which has already been extensively researched and trialled

Schools were keen to be involved with the Catch Up Numeracy programme. Its aim to support learners who struggle with numeracy resonates in particular with two of North Lanarkshire Council's Learning and Leisure Services service plan priorities:

Priority 4 – To close the attainment gap

Priority 5 – To promote quality learning to improve outcomes for all learners

Schools were impressed by the gains reported by Catch Up Numeracy and wanted to explore the programme's potential for learners in North Lanarkshire. A key factor in the programme's success to date has been the commitment of the trained personnel within pilot schools. This includes the Classroom Assistants who deliver the learning sessions and their nominated Depute Head Teachers/ Principal Teachers, who have acted as mentors and provided support and guidance throughout the pilot. A central feature of this support has been the timetabling of CAs to ensure the continued implementation of the programme.

Local authority support was offered to those who required it; however, this support was not requested during the pilot phase. The LA has also provided support in the form of network meetings for Depute Head Teachers/ Principal Teachers and for Classroom Assistants respectively. These have been well attended and reported to be useful.

Next Steps

- Schools with trained personnel will continue to implement Catch Up Numeracy.
- Identify and train a NLC Catch Up Numeracy trainer
- Extend the programme to include more primary schools
- Bring secondary schools on board where appropriate and monitor the success of the programme in this context.

And finally...

The final words belong to those who have been most heavily involved:

Depute Head Teachers/ Principal Teachers:

“The focussed sessions are proving extremely beneficial in filling the gaps and providing additional consolidation opportunities. Children are gaining confidence in their mathematical ability and they are enjoying the success from their efforts.”

Classroom Assistants:

“The children are really benefiting from the focused intervention. Not only is their maths improving but their confidence and belief in themselves is too.”

Children:

“It helped me with my take-aways”

“I thought it was fun.”

“I like it because it’s fun and helps me when I’m doing my maths and number work.”

“It’s excellent. I like playing snap with the cards and doing games with the number string. It helps me to learn my numbers.”

“I like it. When I did estimation with Catch Up it really helped me when I was doing money in the class. I estimated first of all and it made it easier for me to do the sum.”

“I really enjoy Catch Up and feel more confident with my number work in class.”

“I could not do maths before, but now I can!”

Vicky Quinn, Quality Improvement Officer, NLC