

Kisheron Day School - Hackney

I started using Stern's Structural Arithmetic with two boys in January 2008. One boy has severe global delay and very little expressive language and the other is severely autistic. They are aged 9 and 8. Previously both boys would join in number rote counts and join in number rhymes with help but had no basic understanding of abstract mathematical concepts.

Since the introduction of the scheme, there has been a marked improvement in both boys understanding. In the first case the boy is able to manipulate the blocks and place them vertically in their assigned place (At first they would be placed horizontally and it took a good month to teach him to do it correctly). Now he recognizes the order they should be in and can match them to their twins.

With the autistic child who is a visual learner, he has moved very quickly through the first level and has developed an understanding of before, after, bigger, smaller, ordering, patterns and using blocks to make 10's. He has now put number names to the blocks and has developed an idea of addition to 5. It has been necessary to model activities to learn the language, which for him is particularly difficult, and through his actions rather than the use of language we can monitor his progress.

Both boys are developing a fundamental understanding of Arithmetic concepts which were lacking previously. It has also helped with their fine-motor and thinking skills

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