

Core International School, Rome

27th February, 2010.

Dear Vikki,

Here is a short account of my views on Stern Maths that we have used so far. Please feel free to use it in any way you wish, I realise the more publicity gained for Stern the better for us all!

We started using Stern 6 months ago and our young learner (8yrs with Down syndrome) has shown some remarkable developments in her understanding of Maths skills and concepts already.

The Stern scheme takes a wonderfully practical and 'hands on' approach to Maths. This has helped to create visual understanding followed by conceptual understanding, and in the majority of topics our student has achieved such a solid grasp of what she is doing that she is regularly able to complete assessments without apparatus.

As the scheme is so visual her working memory and her long term memory have both been stimulated and with regular reinforcement she is retaining the concepts and strategies over a greater period of time, and then building upon this knowledge.

Of particular note is the students newly found understanding of Mental Maths strategies. The chapters on 'adding 9' were a resounding success (we are about to begin 'adding 8'), she has retained number bonds to 10 and 20, and is using addition skills when moving through the decades with ease.

We have also found that skills learned through Stern can be applied to the traditional classroom Maths text book giving our student access to mainstream Maths, which is an obvious bonus.

The young learner herself is thoroughly enjoying the scheme, reaping benefits from the positive impact that being successful and achieving can bring.

Stern is a wonderful key to the Maths door way that is so often closed to many young learners. I have found Stern a great success and I would not hesitate in recommending it to other schools/teachers who are looking for a visual and practical Maths scheme.

Penny Ferroni

[Special Educational Needs Teacher](#)