

Hearing, Speech and Language Difficulties

John is a Y3 child who has been diagnosed as having moderate learning difficulties. He has a Statement of Special Needs and is educated one year out of cohort (now in Y2), having repeated his year in Nursery. John has hearing and speech and language difficulties and receives a high level of support (25 hours per week).

Despite this level of carefully targeted support, using a range of materials and being in classes with very experienced and skilled teachers, John had entered the Y2 class still unable to count with 1-1 matching and with no real understanding of number values.

In June 2006, towards the end of his time in Y1 (but as a Y2 child), it was decided to use the Stern Maths materials to support John. The progress he has since made has amazed and greatly pleased all involved.

As a visual learner John quickly learnt to match the blocks to their home space. The multi-sensory nature of the programme helped to motivate him and make him actively involved in the learning process. The small steps with lots of repetition helped to lay solid foundations for understanding what number values really are, enabling John to then move on through other concepts.

Following the instructions given and having the spoken concepts linked to visual actions has helped to develop John's receptive language and auditory memory. He particularly enjoys taking the role of the teacher where he needs to be able to give instructions and use expressive language appropriately. The layout of the pattern board reinforced accurate 1-1 counting and directionality and this has transferred to counting everyday objects

John's learning became very focused and accelerated through the next six week period allowed on the Individual Education Plan. John was able to work on concepts of one more, one less and simple number bonds to 10. This work was revisited after the Summer Holidays and by October 2006 John was working on simple addition and subtraction and demonstrated a very secure understanding of these concepts.

March 2007 – John has now started working on Book 2 of the Stern Maths Programme. Within a nine month period he has gone from having no understanding of number values to being able to confidently add and subtract and to record his work.

The Stern Maths programme has proved to be an invaluable resource with this child and we plan to use them with a range of children in the future.

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