









SuccessMaker motivates pupils

SuccessMaker

School name:	 Middle Barton Primary School	School type:	 Primary (4-11 years)
Region:	 South East	Ofsted rating:	 Good (Feb 2013)
Area type:	 Rural	Pupil premium %:	 13%
Number of pupils:	 103	EAL %:	 0%

Why SuccessMaker? To support the progress of Middle Barton Primary School's higher than average percentage of SEN pupils and to motivate these pupils.

Key points to take away

- SuccessMaker **motivated pupils**
- SuccessMaker worked **best delivered in a regular time slot**, led by a TA
- SuccessMaker was **managed by a lead TA and supported by teachers**.

“ I am finding it a really fun programme to use and also it's helped boost my confidence and helped me understand maths more. ”

– Pupil, Year 6.

Background

Middle Barton is a small primary school set in rural Oxfordshire. Teaching Assistant, Catherine Pearce, used SuccessMaker with Key Stage 2 pupils.

Implementation

In order to harmonise with timetabling at Middle Barton Primary School, Catherine identified Key Stage 2 pupils to participate in the SuccessMaker programme. These pupils were selected due to being up to two years behind their expected age in both maths and reading. Teachers then selected additional pupils whom they thought might benefit from the extra support. In total, nine pupils were selected who needed maths intervention, and four needing reading intervention.

Catherine organised the pupils into two groups: one for Years 5 and 6, working in their classroom on laptops during registration, and the other for Year 4, working in the ICT suite. This latter group had more focused, dedicated time using SuccessMaker.

Motivating pupils

SuccessMaker has inbuilt feedback for pupils, so Middle Barton Primary School chose not to use any additional motivators, concluding that, “it stood alone as a motivating piece.” Catherine also points out that, “some of the children liked the scores at the end and I think that was quite motivating for them.”

Making learning fun

Pupil surveys revealed that most pupils had a positive attitude towards SuccessMaker. Pupils felt they learned new things and that reading and maths were easier. In maths, they liked the characters and pictures in particular. When asked what they would tell their friends about the SuccessMaker reading programme, one pupil said, “it is fun,” and another said, “it is the best!”. The comments were similar for maths: “it's a fun way to boost your confidence in maths,” and “if you're not sure about maths, it can teach you more.” Further, “SuccessMaker is really fun, so you should try it!”



One Year 6 pupil sent Pearson an email saying: “I am finding it a really fun programme to use and also it's helped boost my confidence and helped me understand maths more.”

Data insight

Another inbuilt feature of the programme is the ability to track pupil progress with various data reports. Catherine used the data from SuccessMaker to track pupil progress by seeing “how many questions [they] had done and how many [they] got right.”

This data shows that each pupil spent 5 to 11 hours using the programme with most pupils mastering between 20 to 40 skills. All pupils showed an acceptable performance (i.e. five to 11 weeks progress) and some showed accelerated progress up to five months gain in maths.

“ I think the thing I like the most was the way the children had the choice... they could break a problem down and do it step by step. ”

The outcome – Input is proportional to output

Catherine concludes: “I think the children in the Year 4 class made more progress overall,” demonstrating that for Middle Barton Primary School, SuccessMaker gave the best results when used in smaller, dedicated groups.

Find out more

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