

Course outline

There are many reasons why children struggle with maths. For children with Down syndrome, their challenges are intensified, but are still very diverse. To label them all as the same is not correct, rather their individual make-up or profile should determine the approach. From that basis the programme that would support them in their learning can be employed. **Numicon** is a programme that allows for flexibility while not compromising its promise to deliver a quality experience of learning.

Why Numicon?

- Designed to show exactly what numbers mean
- The patterns demonstrate value of numbers and relationships of numbers- size, comparison
- The pegs and shapes together provide the illustration of maths and leads to language learning
- This enables children to work with numbers without relying on the 'counting concept', but rather see and know that number are whole entities
- The confidence gained by children at this foundation age, leads them into thinking mathematically, equipping them for their future
- The programme is written to support learning for all children, in sequence and with concept on concept
- The multi-sensory approach appeals to all children which allows for inclusion of all learning styles, abilities, regardless of their own difficulties
- Years of research, formal examination and peer review have ensured the success of this programme, demonstrating quality, best practice, but above all a deep passion for children learning maths and using it confidently.

Closing the Gap is the Numicon programme designed for children requiring a very supportive experience because they are not able to visualise or use language to describe their learning well. Children with Down syndrome belong to this group. Other children also are similar, from dyscalculic to sensory impairments. Demands from the international education community as well as families of children with learning needs, eventuated in the writing of this teaching tool. The follow-on programmes of **Kits One and Two** will also be explored in a practical way.

Hands-on activities, reading the teaching guides, discussing assessment, learning some new strategies and considering planning new experiences for your children/students will take up the majority of time on the day. Other programmes of this nature will also be presented, including **Handwriting Without Tears** from the USA.

You will gain convincing information to know that Numicon is the right choice of mathematics programme and have sufficient experience of the activities and general view of the three kits to begin using Numicon successfully and confidently.

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