

Learning Through Play

Fun with Maths



Objectives:

- To see how to use a Maths Bag in a maths circle activity with a group of children
- To understand the strategies used to implement a Maths Bag activity

What is a Maths Bag?

- A Maths Bag is a collection of objects for the children to use in their teacher-led activity to solve maths problems.
- Math Bags have objects for measuring length, sorting by colour and shape and for counting.



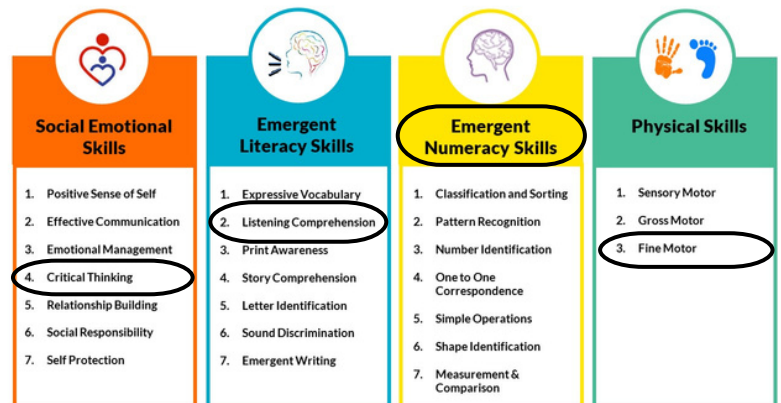
Why should teachers use a Maths Bag?

- Maths Bag helps children develop a positive attitude to maths.
- When they play with maths, children will develop confidence and enjoyment in doing maths.
- Young children learn best through manipulating real objects. Developmentally, they are not ready to think about these concepts without objects.

How to use a Maths Bag with a group of children?

- Children select their own Maths Bag and sit in a circle on the mat or gathering area.
- Unfold cloth workspace, ready for the teacher to direct the play.
- Teacher gives instructions and which materials to use according to the games planned for the lesson. As the Maths Bag has many objects inside, give clear directions about what you want the children to take out of the bag.
 - Make it a game.
 - Wait.
 - Listen.
 - Look for the number cards, take the cards out and look for the number five card.
 - When you have found the card with the number 5, put it on the floor in front of you.
 - Now find the bottle tops. As the teacher speaks they hold up a sample of the object they want the children to find.

Learning Skills Set



Adapting Welcome time for Children with Diverse Needs

- For children who have a limited range of movement in their hands they may need a selection of larger objects for the Maths Bag so they are able to hold and manipulate the objects.
- If they are seated in a wheelchair it is important to provide a small tray to go on their knees so the children have a flat stable surface to manipulate the objects on.
- If the child has low vision they will need brightly coloured objects in their Maths Bag with a high contrast piece of material or paper as the background work cloth.
- Children with diverse needs may need a longer time to process the information from the teacher. Give the child time to respond.

Reflection questions for teachers

- What strategies do you use to model having fun with maths using the Maths Bag with children?
- How do you make a Maths Bag activity inclusive or children with diverse learning needs, from ethnic communities or at a different stage of development?
- What did you learn from the video about using a Maths Bag that you will add to your daily practice to encourage conversations?