

Will our Virtual Maths Centre (MathsCentral) increase learner confidence and greater success in maths skills? by Christine Fay

The Use Of Online Learning Resources For Maths

Project Theme:
Address the mathematics needs of learners and work creatively to overcome individual barriers to learning

Key Ideas For The Project:
Providing resources for vocational maths skills (specific to health and social care and early years education)

Staff Feedback:
Comments from semi-structured interviews

Student Feedback:
Comments from the questionnaires and group interviews

Methodology:
What we did, how we did it and the resources we used

Results:
What did we find out? Suggested improvements and future developments

Has your confidence in maths improved?

| Response | Percentage |
|----------|------------|
| Yes | 64% |
| No | 36% |

Bar Chart Data:

| Group | Same result | No improvement | Improvement |
|---------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| Sample group | ~10% | ~30% | ~60% |
| Control group | ~60% | ~30% | ~10% |

Top tips for future researchers

Evaluation

Our Personal Development During This Project

Read our full report

QR code: [QR code]

Recommendations

- Students liked the VLE design but further work required to help students who lack confidence to engage with the VLE
- Encourage learners to take ownership of the VLE so they create pages and resources
- Teaching and 1-2-1 support is very important if students are unsure of how to tackle maths problems
- Establish same ability maths groups as students see the benefits i.e. feel supported, not fearful of asking for help
- Ensure careful timetabling of maths lessons i.e. don't timetable at the end of a full vocational day or leave big gaps between vocational session and the maths lesson
- Ensure systems in place to ensure smooth transition to maths lessons
- To help increase VLE use and learner confidence, incorporate tasks in lesson so learners have to actively access the VLE in lesson time
- Carry out diagnostic testing of learners' IT skills during induction, so vocational staff can develop learners' IT skills during lessons.
- Enable vocational staff to work with the maths team to identify resources and methods to enhance maths learning in vocational 'classes', through joint team planning and teaching.

Key Findings

- There were slight improvements for both groups taking part in the research.
- 64% of the test group showed improvement in their scores, with 60% of the control group improving their score.
- Indicators that learners preferred the VLE set up in the style of Maths Central. They liked the pictures, very visual, easy to navigate.
- Students liked the interactive resources on Maths Central but some are reluctant to access the VLE in their own time.
- As confidence with maths is an issue, guidance and support is necessary.

BARRIERS TO MATHS

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

CONFIDENCE

MOTIVATION

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE