

**LEAP Action Learning Report 2012**

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| Topic area  (The What) | 1. How to actively involve parents in your school. 2. New ideas to teach mathematics and writing within the new curriculum. |
| Context  (The Where and When) | In John Bunyan Infants School - Braintree - Essex - UK.  Term 3 holidays 2012. Involved visiting 12 schools from throughout Essex, with student ages ranging from 3 to 18 years. It also involved visiting special schools. Schools were mainly from low socio – economic backgrounds. |
| Research methods  (The How) | Interviewing parents, teachers and staff both formally and informally.  Many photos taken to explain how parents were involved in schools and lessons using numicon and Pie’s theory. Attended lessons where children were using the above ideas and materials. |
| Initial findings | * Parents were initially not willing to try new ideas but as they felt welcomed into schools they tended to stay longer on a Monday to interact with their child and their teacher. * Staffs were extremely welcoming and open about how they used parents within the classroom and spoke enthusiastically about how they taught mathematics and writing. * Parents wanted to be involved with the school but didn’t want the responsibility of being expected there each Monday morning. * The governors spoke openly about how the staffs at the schools worked tirelessly to encourage parents to become active helpers in and out of class. * Children require early awareness of numicon and need to play actively with the shapes during their foundation years. By the time they reach Early Key Stage 1 they have been using the concrete material for 1-2 years. The basic principles have been instilled in the developing child. |
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