

Arithmetic Strategies

Introduction

This course will introduce you to the many different arithmetic strategies used in primary school. You will have the opportunity to explore many strategies with your child to be able to use them with confidence.

What will you learn?

During this course you will have the opportunity to:

- Discuss different informal and formal arithmetic approaches used in primary school
- Try different approaches to addition, subtraction, multiplication and/or division used in each year in primary school
- Work with your child to identify how they approach arithmetic calculations
- Share ideas with other parents and staff on how to make maths interesting and fun for your child

Who is this course aimed at?

Family Learning courses provide a unique opportunity for families to learn together and explore aspects of the National Curriculum from Year 1 up to Year 6. These courses are part funded by Birmingham Family Learning and are open to families with at least one child attending a Birmingham Primary School. All courses are held at either weekends or during school holidays in order to allow participation of both children and parents/guardians. The Family Learning Team welcomes enquiries from school and other organisations and will happily design courses to meet your group's needs.

What are the entry requirements? (If applicable)

There are no formal entry requirements for this course. Courses are aimed at parents with qualifications in up to Level 2.

How is it taught?

This course is taught by an experienced tutor who will guide you through the learning in a supportive and encouraging way. You will be taught using a variety of learning methods. These include whole group work, small group work, independent work and question-and-answer techniques.

How will you be assessed?

During this course you will take part in activities, complete worksheets and discussions. All this work, along with pictures of you and your child taking part in activities will be organised into a portfolio, which you will hand-in at the end of the course. Teaching staff will support you to complete all work and to organise your portfolio.

The work you hand-in will be marked by your course tutor and be subject to internal and external moderation (moderation is similar to marking by an exam's officer). After your work is marked and moderated it will be returned to you with feedback from your tutor.

What will you achieve?

If you complete the course successfully you will achieve 3 Open College Network (OCN) Credits at Level 1 or 2. The OCN Credits you achieve are part of a national system for recognising and accrediting the learning you have undertaken on this course. Once you

complete this course you can build the number of credits you have achieved by undertaking further short courses as detailed below.

What can you do after this?

It is recommended that you take all the other courses within the Skills for Life Pathway-Family Learning Courses, including spelling strategies, creating story sacks, writing skills, science and making literacy games. Following a pathway will help you get the most out of coming to Fircroft College. What you learn on one course will help you on the next.

Who are the tutors?

Family Learning Courses are taught by three tutors: two adult tutors specialising in maths and English and a primary school teacher. Sam Lerner and Sue Darley specialise in teaching parents in college and diverse community settings and have a good working knowledge of maths and English taught in primary schools. They will support you in exploring the many and varied techniques your child is taught and is expected to use in school. Rosemary Aveyard is a qualified primary school teacher who is experienced in teaching children between 5 and 11 years and in a variety of schools in the Midlands area. All tutors readily encourage parents and children to share their existing understanding and skills with others in the group and to develop these skills in a supportive atmosphere.

When does it run?

This is a three day course which includes two nights residency at the College. Courses start at 5.30pm on the first day and finish between 3pm and 4pm on the third day. Please check our website or short course guide for course dates. Alternatively you can contact our Short Course office.

Is there a cost?

This course is FREE of charge. All accommodation, food, teaching & course materials costs are included.

How can you apply?

For more information please contact the short course office on 0121 472 0116 or email shortcourses@fircroft.ac.uk. You can apply online at www.fircroft.ac.uk, by post or in person.

