

# WAYS TO PROMOTE MATHS INDEPENDENCE

**by supporting executive function skills**

## LANGUAGE

Introduce new mathematical vocabulary with care and have clear displays grouping words, symbols and diagrams. Revisit the language and refer to the displays as often as is appropriate

## TEACH EXPLICITLY

Talk about word origins and related concepts. At the beginning of a new and unfamiliar unit of study, make a lesson out of this if necessary, so that children can be really comfortable and familiar with the terminology.

## EXAMPLES

Talk through each example you model explicitly, no matter how often you have done it before. If learners repeatedly self-talk themselves through a mathematical task, the problem-solving strategies and steps can become embedded more quickly, reinforcing the skills

## PROPS

Being able to handle objects, see and feel the difference in size, recognising the difference in quantity, will unlock first counting, then comparison and simple addition and subtraction, and can be used very effectively to illustrate and practise multiplication and division.

## REVISION

Teach, and revise problem-solving skills, calculation techniques and concepts whenever they are needed to successfully complete a unit of learning. Don't assume that if a strategy has been mastered for a simpler task that skills will transfer automatically.

## DISPLAYS/PROMPTS

Teach concepts using the poster or prompt, talk through the concepts, teach them how to use the information displayed to help remember what to do, and make sure they know where the poster is in the room every time they might need it.

EF can have significant impact on maths, not least because of the importance of working memory and sequencing. EF difficulties commonly co-occur with SpLDs.