

Maths For Life

Findings on a New Approach for Teaching Mathematics in Children with Down Syndrome

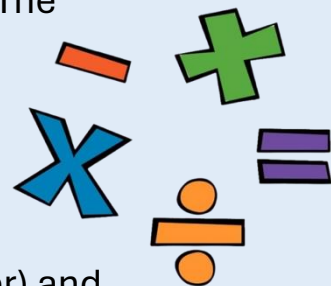


Maths plays a crucial role in our daily lives, from telling time to managing money. However, children with Down syndrome often struggle to develop mathematics skills through traditional schooling. The *Maths For Life* programme aims to change this by offering a new way to teach maths, focusing on improving both the accuracy of children's maths skills and their ability to complete maths independently.

Maths For Life is a program that uses an initial assessment to provide children with personalized maths lessons that match their learning level. The lessons include incorporation of real-world examples, repeated practice before new topics, and one-to-one support from a guardian to help them succeed.

About the Study

- **Participants:** 32 children and young people with Down syndrome, aged 5-24 years, took part in this study.
- **Groups:** 15 children followed the *Maths For Life* programme, while 17 continued with regular school maths lessons. The programme was led by parents/caregivers over a 4-month period.
- **Testing:** All children completed a math assessment before and after the programme. This helped measure improvements in both accuracy (getting the right answer) and independence (how much help they needed)



Key Findings

◇ **Improved Performance**

Children who participated in the *Maths For Life* programme showed greater improvement in their maths skills

◇ **Greater Independence**

Children who completed the Maths For Life programme became more independent in their learning. They were able to solve more math problems without relying on help.

The *Maths For Life* programme has shown promising results, helping children with Down syndrome improve their math skills, become more independent learners and perhaps better manage tasks in real-life situations. This pilot study suggests that, with further development and testing, the programme has the potential to help close attainment gaps in mathematics between typically developing and struggling learners.



For parents who would like more information or to access the programme, please visit the *Maths For Life* website: www.mathsforlife.com.

The full research publication can be found at: [A pilot study of the effectiveness of the Maths for Life programme for children with Down Syndrome](#) by Katie A Gilligan-Lee, Karen McGuigan, Holly Snellgrove and Jo van Herwegen

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