

Liam's story

When Liam joined the *Every Child Counts* programme in April 2008 he was a very quiet pupil with low self-esteem and no confidence. His teacher was very concerned that his last two termly assessments showed a regression of progress from national curriculum level 1b to 1c. She was also concerned that Liam was extremely quiet in class and not participating in lessons or discussions. She felt that there was something preventing him from making progress – a block, a learning barrier.



Today, as a result of the extra help he has had, Liam is a transformed lad. He has showed himself to be a sensitive and thoughtful boy. He is able, hard working and eager to learn. He loves playing with numbers and spotting patterns. He quickly absorbs new concepts. He has become a confident learner, so much so that his present catch phrase is now, *'Oh... easy peasy!'*

The initial detailed assessment at the start of his programme immediately highlighted gaps and misconceptions in his learning. For example, he could say which column in a two-digit number represented tens or units but he didn't understand what tens and units actually meant and how they fitted together. He confused 'teen' and 'ty' numbers, such as 'thirteen' and 'thirty'. He had difficulty crossing the tens boundaries when counting numbers above 20 and he often transposed two-digit numbers.

One-to-one lessons gave Liam the opportunity to clear up these misconceptions. Slowly, he began to understand place value and this proved to be pivotal – the key to unlocking the learning barrier.



From this stage onwards, Liam's confidence and belief in himself blossomed. The adage 'success breeds success' sprang to mind, as he quickly began to gobble up new concepts. Numbers began to make sense - doubles and halves, numbers pairs, adding and taking tens, nines and elevens, counting in twos, fives and tens, number pairs, etc. He began to 'take off.'



Today, Liam successfully uses the concepts learnt to achieve speedy and accurate recall in number calculations. He contributes in class, answering, explaining and confidently sharing his knowledge with adults and classmates. As a popular and well-respected helper, Liam attends the weekly lunchtime

Maths Club – explaining new games to his peer group.

In May 2008, Liam's class teacher was delighted to report that Liam had achieved a secure 2b in his Year 2 SATs. She noted Liam's greater confidence in class lessons. She was pleased he was now able to work independently in the middle to top numeracy groups in her class.

At the beginning of July 2008 the NFER standardised 'Progress in Maths' test confirmed that Liam was a secure 2b; in fact, he was just one point away from a 2a.



Liam's mother was keen for Liam to take part in the Numeracy Recovery programme. She is very pleased with his progress and was delighted to be told that Liam is now able to work independently, in class and will not be needing further numeracy support in Year 3.

Liam is noticeably enjoying his class maths lessons now/. His problem solving and reasoning skills are beginning to take flight - he is beginning to think 'outside the box'. His prospects are exciting and his teachers confident that he has acquired the skills and self-belief to do well in Key Stage 2.



Liam and number pair skittles.
Liam can recall pairs to 10, 20 and 100