



Run a session on... maths

Okay, so maths might not be top on the list of things people come into your centre and ask about. But it's funny how often it crops up, and how vital it is in everyday life. Simple things like cooking and basic budgeting all take a bit of maths, and then there's online shopping, price comparisons - even online banking. And it's surprising how many of us are a bit rusty.

Learning about computers and the internet often shows up numeracy needs, and it's also a great way of introducing maths 'by the back door'. You start with what people are interested in - for instance cooking, gardening, or keeping in touch - find out how the internet can help, and then sneak the maths bit in. Like estimating weights for flour, calculating weedkiller per square metre, or working out time differences for a Skype call.

Things to try...

Holiday savings

If it's getting towards holiday season, this is a great subject to work some maths around. Get a group of learners to do some online window-shopping and compare holiday prices - for instance with <https://www.travelsupermarket.com/>. You could get them into teams of two to see who can find the cheapest deal, or set a worksheet of destinations for them to practise on.

You can then show them how to use the internet to find or even calculate exchange rates, work out time differences, and even provide them a shopping list of holiday essentials - like sun cream and swimming costumes - and challenge your teams to stick to a set budget in order to buy everything! A chocolate prize goes to the team who can get the most bargains in their virtual basket.

Money, money, money

Whether you're looking for bargains or want to start banking online, money is great motivator and obviously involves a bit of maths! Check out the 'Managing your money online' section on Learn My Way, where learners can find out how to do budgeting, banking and shopping online in a safe and easy way.

Another good place to start is BBC Skillswise, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/maths>, which has practical common-sense maths for adults. Learners can choose which subjects to cover, and test their knowledge as they go along.





Next steps... on Learn My Way

Online Shopping

In this course, learners will find out all about shopping online. It covers how you can use the internet to compare prices, your rights when buying online and secure payment methods you can use when shopping online.

