

MATHS IN OUR SCHOOLS:

Name of the school: Istituto Comprensivo "G.Settanni"- A. Manzoni

Country: Rutigliano (Ba) Italy

1. What age do students start studying Maths? **The study of Maths, in line with national indications, begins in the first class (six years) but already in the third year of Nursery school (5 years) begins a path of mathematical education that refers to the field of experience "numbers and space".**
2. What kind of contents do students learn in Maths lessons? **The Maths lessons in general refer to 3 fields of knowledge: numbers, space and measure, data relations and forecast.**
3. Do you teach Maths as a key competency and using it as a skill? **The construction of Maths thinking is a long and progressive process in which concepts, skills and competences are intertwined, developed and consolidated several times.**
4. **Mathematics teaching, in fact, cannot be separated from the acquisition of skills and knowledge that translate into skills only when they are able to be transferred and applied in other areas of experience.**
5. Is there a teacher specialist in Maths to teach the students? **No, in primary school there is no teacher with a specific degree in Maths but in the context of school autonomy, generally, the study disciplines are divided into macro teaching areas. For example, in many schools a teacher teaches all disciplines related to the scientific area: Maths, Science, Physical education, Technology. This organization varies from school to school.**
6. Do you consider that Maths is the most difficult subject for your students? Do you know any reason? **No, I don't think that Maths is considered the most difficult subject, in class surveys, at least in the first few years, mathematics is successful among pupils and the results achieved in internal evaluation tests are also proof of this. It is lowered in the final classes and also the performance levels, due to a greater difficulty in the acquisition of mathematical skills due, perhaps, to an excessive symbolism of the discipline. Divisions, fractions, decimal numbers, decimal measurements ... are often a didactic obstacle for many students.**
7. What kind of resources do you use to teach Maths? **The approach with the discipline is mainly laboratorial, so there are many tools used in the school path: easy-to-use material, structured material: abacus, rules, multi-base material, as well as technological resources such as IWB, the calculator and available resources on the net (educational software).**

