



# Being Ambitious

## Professional Learning by Kate Sharples Year 2 Teacher

Introduction to Numicon, 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016, Bangkok Patana School, Bangkok



*'Mathematics is neither easy nor hard; it is a journey of ever-increasingly complex and con-joined discoveries'* (Andrew Jeffrey, Workshop Facilitator).

This workshop beautifully demonstrated how the Numicon materials can play a very significant role in promoting such discoveries.

Participants were actively engaged in a range of activities to help children visualize and calculate with confidence. We were taken through a child's learning journey, from their recognition of numbers as sounds, sequences, quantities, patterns, nouns and ultimately their creation of mathematical generalisations.

Numicon can clearly support a diverse range of mathematical areas including the power of pattern, equivalence and place value. Notably, Numicon is a valuable resource material for the whole primary phase and we were provided with insights into supporting algebra, fractions, decimals and percentages. The versatile application of these support materials were also demonstrated through problem solving activities involving translations, rotations and symmetry.

As a result of this workshop children in my class are being provided with much greater structured and unstructured access to Numicon. Recently, we have been investigating equivalence of multiplication calculations and visualising repeated addition strategies through the use of Numicon. Children show much greater independence and collaborative skills during number investigations. Their understanding of the relationships between numbers is soaring and all children show improved motivation for learning. Numicon is proving to be a formidable tool in enabling children to demonstrate their thinking processes to others and to confidently compare and reflect upon different strategies. Through Numicon, children are co-constructing their own mathematical problems and we are laying much stronger foundations for algebra.

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