

Hints and Tips: A Summary from the Evaluation

1. Communication

- Ensure clear roles and lines of communication between coordinators, volunteers and schools.
- Make sure there is an initial meeting between volunteers, school coordinator and class teachers before first NP session.
- Clear communication routes for volunteers and teachers throughout the school year.
- Use Number Partners diaries to communicate interesting notes on pupil's progress to teachers without making it a chore for volunteers
- Provide an opportunity for local evaluation of the scheme at the end of each term or year.

2. Pupil Selection

- Ensure teachers know that the scheme works best with the less confident, engaged and communicative pupils so teachers can target those pupils in most need of the scheme.
- Ensure teachers are aware that specific pupils and volunteers are consistent each week.
- Ensure teachers are aware that groups should be small (2 is best, 3 at max).

3. Training

- Make sure volunteers have an opportunity to play the board games so volunteers are familiar with them immediately. Encourage volunteers to be confident to work out the rules with the pupils and not worry about whether they are playing it right!
- Ensure that volunteers know who to call for in case they have any difficulties.

4. Volunteers

- Encourage greater recognition from management so volunteers feel supported.
- Promote the scheme with messages relating to volunteer benefits: satisfaction, rewarding etc to increase numbers.

5. Interest levels

- Increase the range of games horizontally not vertically to maintain pupil and volunteer interest.