

Cedric – Creating a culture for celebrating confusion!

Children's mindset around Maths is crucial.

Perhaps the most radical mindset shift you can make for your children is to teach them that it is OK to make mistakes. In fact it is not just OK - it is great. If you find errors in your thinking, celebrate them! Because, when you understand what is wrong in your thinking, you learn something new.



To help our children with this in our school we have created Cedric. Cedric often finds Maths confusing. But he has learned that he can get un-confused if he follows certain steps.

CEDRIC stands for
Confusion is to be
Expected
Detected
Respected
Inspected &
Corrected

Here's how it works in practice:

When we are learning Maths we may often feel **confused**.

This is to be **expected** because our brain is learning something new. It has to work hard and may make mistakes, in just the same way as if we are learning a sport.

We can **detect** our mistakes if we discuss our thinking with others. If we find we have a different answer to someone else, that is where it gets interesting!

If we find mistakes we should *not* rub them out! Nor should we just put a dot next to them. Instead we should **respect** them by marking a bright coloured cross next to each mistake.

Then we need to **inspect** each mistake with a partner or a team to see if we can correct any confusion in our thinking.

Finally we can use the same bright colour to write the **correct** answer next to the wrong one.

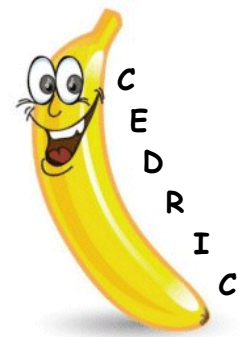
Here's what makes this process really powerful:

- children get and give feedback in the moment, rather than getting it the following day - much more effective for learning
- children are deeply engaged in trying to explain their thinking to others - this not only helps the children who are confused - it also helps the children who are doing the explaining because teaching someone else what you have just learned yourself is the best possible way of securing your own understanding
- jotters or exercise books show exactly what each child has been able to do on his or her own (in ordinary pencil) and what has been understood with the help of someone else (in coloured pen or pencil) - so the book becomes a real record of thinking - great for pupils and teachers looking back and for parent-teacher interviews

The CEDRIC steps are listed on the next page as a poster. This is designed so you can print it out and display it just as it is, with CEDRIC as a banana! But you may prefer to do as we are doing in our school: run a competition to decide what Cedric looks like and then make up your own school's Cedric posters to display.

Either way, do share Cedric with your pupils and see their confidence blossom...

Enjoy!



CONFUSION is to be:

EXPECTED

A mistake is an opportunity to learn.

DETECTED

Find your misunderstanding with a partner.

RESPECTED

Put a beautiful **bold coloured cross** next to your mistake.

INSPECTED

With others, investigate where you went wrong.

CORRECTED

When you understand the correct answer and **why** it is correct, write it after the cross in **colour**.