

Children's Mathematics Network

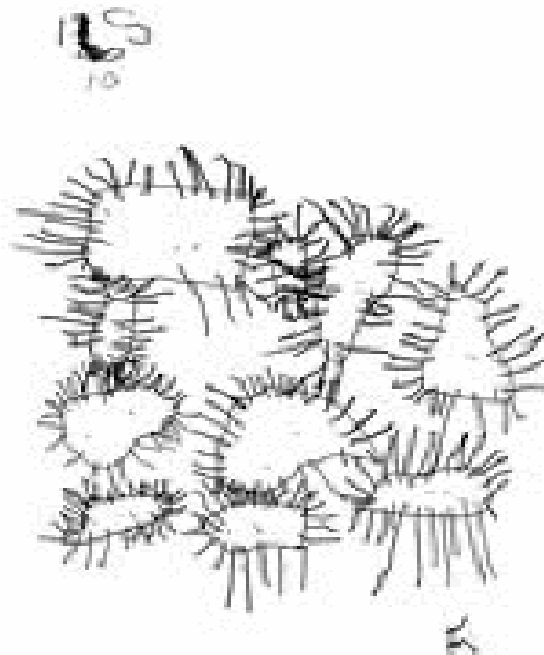
The **Children's Mathematics Network** is an international, not-for-profit organisation for teachers, practitioners, students, researchers and teacher educators working with children in the birth – 8 year age range. It is a grassroots network, with children and teachers at the heart of it. Membership of the CM Network is free.

The Network focuses on children's mathematical graphics and the meanings children make. You will be able to explore and share 'written' mathematics within the context of visual representation including drawing; early (emergent) writing; thinking; play; schemas; creativity and multi-modality. Set up by Maulfry Worthington and Elizabeth Carruthers, the site is intended to share and promote the findings from extensive, evidence-based research with children, teachers and families that takes place within the context of homes, nurseries and schools.

From the homepage you can access the list of existing groups and their members, and from the Discussion page you can enter your own email address to join in the various discussion fora. Clicking on the Pedagogy tab takes you to various sections on early years and mathematics around the world, children's mathematical graphics, play and multi-modality and drawing, each of which contains papers on different aspects and a helpful reference list.

The Research tab leads to summaries of the different contexts of research – with children, with families, with teachers, research into e-learning and mathematical graphics and current research.

Also from the homepage you can keep up to date with news about conferences and events, and find out how you can start a CM Network group of your own. My favourite part of the site though is the Gallery of children's work and the Graphic of the Month where the children's representations are annotated and discussed (example above).



If you are an early years practitioner yourself, the website makes for essential reading both for your own interest and the implications for managing the subject across the school. If your expertise lies with older children, then as subject leader share this with your Early Years colleagues and ask them to comment or maybe précis it for the rest of the maths team.

I think it has the potential to change, in a fundamental way, how we think about early mathematical development.

Review: Lynne McClure: *The Maths Co-ordinator's File. 25: Mathematical Association*, May, 2007.

<http://www.childrens-mathematics.net>

* Two recently added pages allow you to access and contribute to the different Discussions and 'Network Groups' – local groups that teachers and practitioners themselves set up to explore aspects of children's mathematical graphics.