

# MULTIPLY



Advancing Numeracy Skills in the Scottish Borders

November 2024

## Hello from the Multiply Team !

Welcome to the fifth issue of our Multiply Newsletter! We're delighted to have you back with us.

In this edition, you'll find highlights from the Multiply Adult Learning Programme, info on upcoming learning opportunities, and a coffee break chat with Multiply partner Melanie McEwan.

Be sure to check out sections on Digital Literacy and Safety, along with our Resource of the Month, which we're sure parents and carers will find especially helpful.

As always, we value your feedback—let us know what you think! We're here to share the numeracy news that matters most to you.



Our Facebook pages have had a makeover! Follow us using the links below to keep up to date with all that's going on in Community Learning and Development and Employability across the Scottish Borders.

[CLD Berwickshire - Facebook](#)

[CLD Eildon - Facebook](#)

[CLD Scottish Borders - Facebook](#)

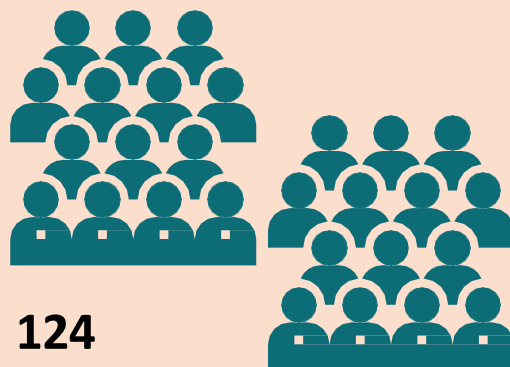
[CLD \(Hawick CLD\) Teviot and Liddesdale - Facebook](#)

# Unlocking Numbers: Highlights from the Multiply Adult Learning Programme!

A Warm Welcome to Our Community of Learners!



29 amazing learning opportunities

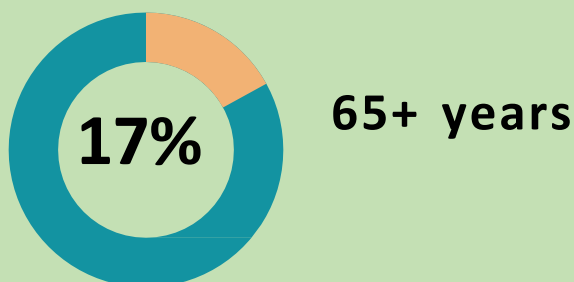
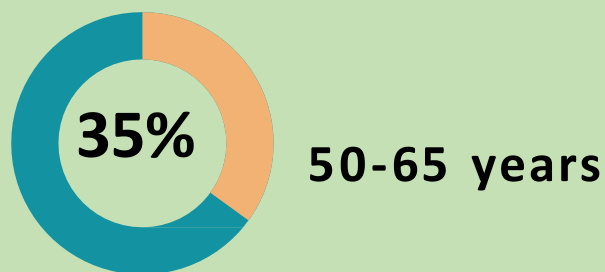
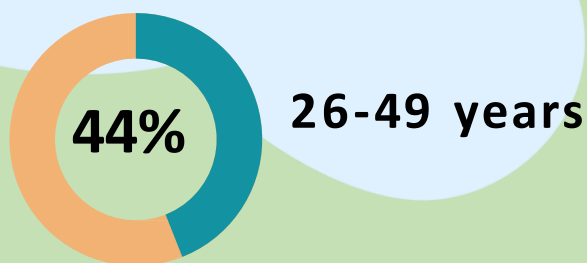


124 participants



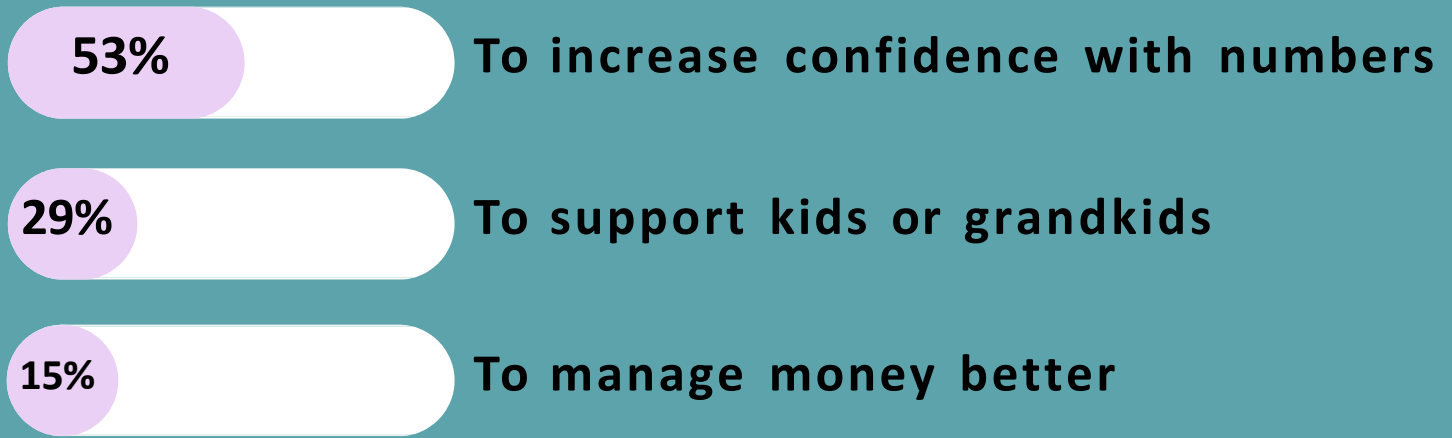
151 course places filled (yes, some learners did more than one course!)

## Who Joined Us? Let's Meet Our Learners...



# What Motivated Participation?

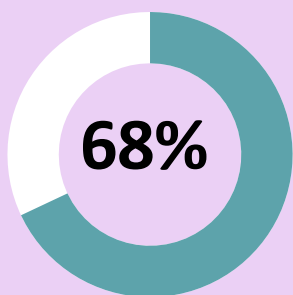
We love hearing why people chose to join us!



## Boosting Confidence: What Did You Think?

**100%**

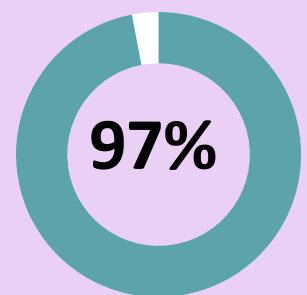
of learners now feel more confident with numbers, and that they now tackle everyday tasks with greater ease and enthusiasm



were new to workshops like this



found pathways to jobs or further education



noticed improvements in their overall well-being

“ Thankful for this workshop and it's a great opportunity.

“ I like the idea of making maths more relevant to people who are not necessarily academic.

“ I wasn't confident with numbers beforehand but now I am fully confident, doing the till and counting tips have helped me tremendously.

“ I found it more interesting than learning maths at school in the 1970s.

“ It has helped me to be more conscious of how numeracy is part of everyday life and to be more confident in my own abilities.

## Thank You for Being Part of Our Learning Family!

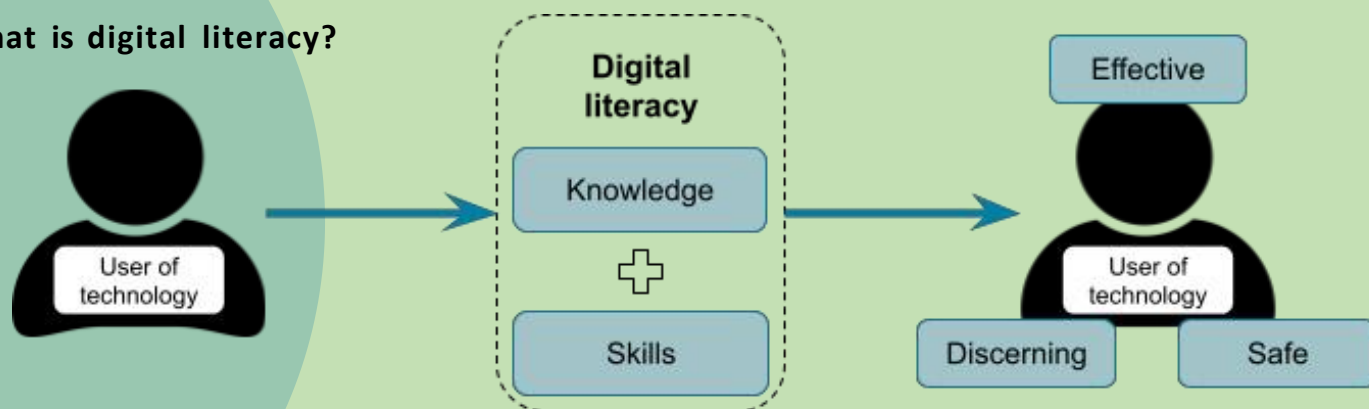
Together, we're making numbers exciting and accessible. We encourage everyone to take full advantage of our [remaining learning opportunities](#) as we wrap up this wonderful program.

Thank you to all our participants for your engagement!

# Numeracy Skills & Digital Literacy

In today's fast-changing digital world, more people are getting online, with everyday tasks like grocery shopping and paying bills being done with the help of technology. As a result, there is a greater need for us to be **digitally literate**.

What is digital literacy?

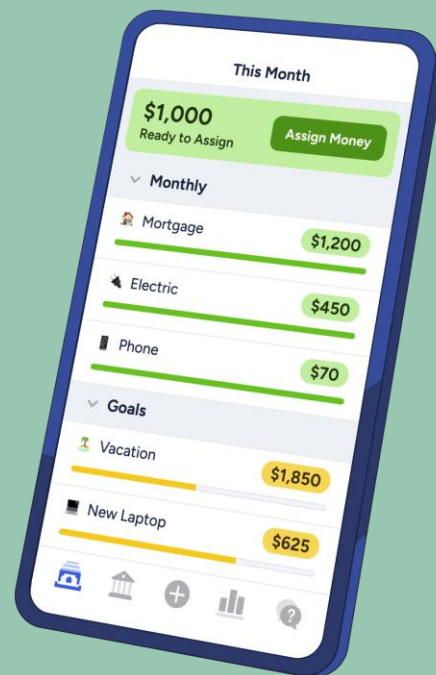


Without the knowledge and skills required to be digitally literate, people are at risk of being unsafe and unable online.

However, there remains a strong need for people to have solid **literacy** and **numeracy** skills, as it is the application of these skills in a digital context that enables us to navigate the online world effectively ([VocTech Trust, 2024](#)).

We use our numeracy skills online to:

- enter accurate numbers into apps, for example ones to help us budget
- understand information presented to us, for example in tables or graphs
- assess the trustworthiness of information we see online by making sense of data and making informed decisions.
- Online safety remains important, especially as we see younger age groups being increasingly exposed to harmful content ([Ofcom, 2024](#)).



Overleaf we've shared some top tips to make online life a little safer for everyone.

# Stay Smart:

# 6 Essential Tips for

# Online Safety

## Tip 1

**Check In Regularly:** Ask young people, "How are things online?" to stay informed about their digital experiences.

## Tip 2

**Privacy Settings Matter:** Don't rely solely on parental controls. [Review and adjust](#) the privacy settings on social media and gaming platforms together.

## Tip 3

**Think Before You Share:** Always fact-check surprising content before sharing it to prevent spreading false information.

## Tip 4

**Spot Scams:** Be aware of [evolving scams](#), especially with generative AI. Discuss recent scams with friends and family to stay alert.

## Tip 5

**Shop Safely:** Use trusted retailers and apps, check seller reviews, and avoid bank transfers when shopping online.

## Tip 6

**Mix Up Your Passwords:** Use unique passwords for different accounts. Let your device generate and save strong passwords to enhance security.

# Useful Links

[Password Management & Security Guide | SWGfL](#)

[Have I Been Pwned:](#) Check if your email has been compromised in a data breach [Report](#)

[Harmful Content - We Help You Remove Content](#)

[Digital Wellbeing | SWGfL](#)

[ProjectEvolve - The Digital Education Toolkit | SWGfL](#)

Check whether your internet connection is blocking certain types of harmful or illegal content: [TestFiltering.com: Verify your Internet is Filtered | Test Filtering](#)

[So You Got Naked Online | SWGfL](#)

What is Artificial Intelligence? | [AI Definition — Scottish AI Alliance Top Tips](#)

[for Reporting Harmful Content Online | SWGfL](#)

[Misinformation on Social Media – Guidance, Impact and Support | SWGfL](#)

[Staying Safe When Buying and Selling Personal Items Online | SWGfL](#)

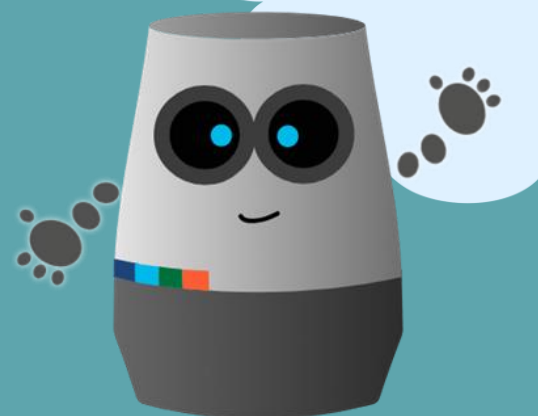
Online Safety Helpline: 0344 381 4772 or [helpline@saferinternet.org.uk](mailto:helpline@saferinternet.org.uk)

## Resource of the Month

Swiggle is a search engine designed to create a safer online environment for kids as they begin their journey with internet searching.

Powered by Google Custom Search and filtered through Google SafeSearch, Swiggle prioritizes educational resources and ensures inappropriate content is blocked. It also monitors search terms to maintain a safe browsing experience.

Schools, teachers, and parents can trust that [Swiggle](#) offers a secure learning space, helping young people develop the skills needed for safe internet use.



**Swiggle**<sup>®</sup>  
CHILD FRIENDLY SEARCH



## Upcoming Learning Opportuntites

For more details of all Multiply Learning Opportunties click [here](#). All courses are FREE and there is something for everyone!

Free Cloth Numeracy Play Bags  
At Birkhill House

Cafe Recharge Cooking Classes

Maths in The Bath - Elisabeth Kelly

Numeracy and Drumming

Number Ninjas

Maths Tuition



## Coffee Break With... Melanie McEwan

*Hi Melanie, please tell us a bit more about your organisation...*



I set up [Melanie McEwan Studio](#) in 2019 and I am so lucky to be working full time as an artist. My art is colourful and I hope to bring joy into people's lives and homes through my original art and greetings cards.

My journey through education led me to study art at Higher level at school and go on to pursue a creative arts degree at university, where I graduated with honours.

One of the best parts of my business is sharing my love of art with others and encouraging them to have I go - I hold private paint parties where adults can discover the joy of creating in a calm, friendly and fun atmosphere.

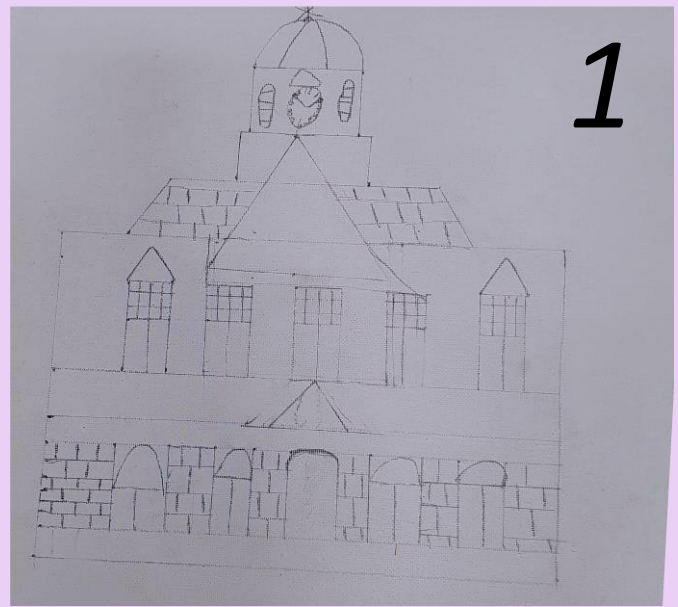
*You've just completed your second adult learning workshop for Multiply, what did that involve?*

I was fortunate to receive funding for both rounds of Multiply workshops. This opportunity was the perfect fit for me. Having spent many years working in Early Years Education and having run Art workshops it was the ideal opportunity to utilise my teaching skills.



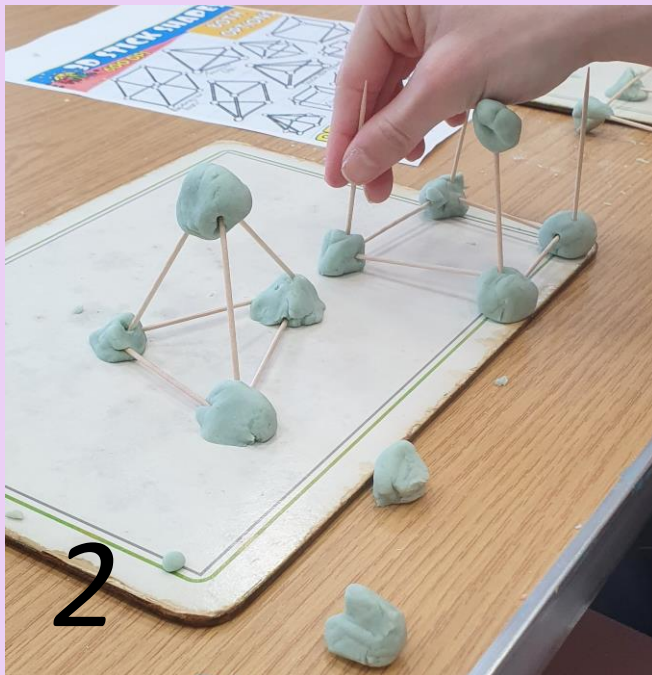


Art lends itself particularly well when exploring numeracy. In a fun, relaxed and safe environment we looked at some famous artists whose work lends itself really well to numerical concepts. For example Piet Mondrian, Paul Klee and Kandinsky whose work was a great starting point for exploring shape. The group loved this opportunity for wider learning alongside numeracy. We went on to look at shape in our environment with the group creating their own artworks of the buildings in Kelso such as the Abbey and the Town hall (picture 1), and made 3D shapes with dough (picture2) and then clay dice (picture3).



***What impact did the workshops have on you and the participants?***

Without doubt this has been one of the best things I have done. In the 2nd round of workshops I wanted to be able to offer more spaces, allowing more people to participate, but I realised I would need help. With extra funding I was able to employ a learner from the first round of workshops as my assistant. He is a keen and talented artist himself and this opportunity allowed him to share his skills with the group and to support those who needed one to one help whilst having the chance to develop his self confidence. Attendees of the workshops regularly told me how much they were enjoying the art activities and how they understood the numeracy involved.



***What are your plans for the future? Has Multiply guided these in anyway?***

One thing that has come from running Multiply workshops is the connection I have made with the Kelso Interest Link Group some of whom came along to my workshops. We are going to meet fortnightly to continue to explore art and creativity. Last week we did a session on clay and used the measuring and weighing skills learned in our numeracy workshops. I wouldn't hesitate to work with the Multiply team should the opportunity arise again. With Christmas approaching I'm preparing for a busy season selling arty gifts and cards through my [website](#) and in person at Christmas Fairs.

