



Michael Hartley has helped millions of people around the world with his maths game website.

Maths is fun with Dr Mike

A Floreat mathematician has helped over one million people from 217 countries in the past year with a website he created five years ago.

In 2005, Michael Hartley was lecturing in mathematics in Malaysia and decided he wanted to start a website.

Dr Mike's Maths Games for Kids provides games for parents and teachers to use with children from Years 1 to 7.

"It has been a lifesaver for some teachers," he said. "Kids are desperate to play, they would rather play than eat, and they do it so they will learn."

"Kids don't know that they have to learn the types of basic skills such as maths and English; all they want to do is play, so this allows them to do both."

Dr Hartley now works at DownUnder GeoSolutions as a mathematician and works on the website in his spare time.

His wife May has helped to translate parts of the site into Malay and his two sons, Matthew (4) and Melvin (9), do not mind being his guinea pigs.

The website, which provides the maths games for free, has also been translated into Spanish

and Chinese and has proved very popular at home in Australia and in the UK, the US, Mexico, Singapore and Malaysia.

Dr Hartley said comments from users of the website made the project worthwhile.

One said: "I've been searching for printable games to make learning multiplication fun for my nine-year-old son," one said. "He's really been struggling and memorisation is just not working for us."

"Thanks again. You are providing a super service to kids (and their parents)."

Dr Hartley said: "When I get emails like this, or even just learn that the games are being used, I know it's a project worth doing."

"Some of the games have been reproduced/adapted in print in various places around the world – for example, the 'dot joining game' was adapted and used in a Turkish science magazine for kids."

Dr Hartley said he would continue adding games to his website and planned to translate more of the games into different languages so it would be even more accessible around the world.