



Supporting your school - training staff to deliver family learning

Play and Language

At Rock Ferry Children's Centre a Foundation Stage Consultant delivered a 10 week Play and Language course. This raised awareness of the importance of the key role parents play in encouraging the development of their child's language through everyday activities. This course helped underconfident, fairly isolated parents to gain confidence in supporting their babies and gave parents a sense of fun and enjoyment through play and interaction with their own children. Parents formed friendships within the group and were able to share experiences and work together.



Bridging the gap – linking with other partners eg artists

Craft Works

St Paul's School in Bidston is in an area of high deprivation. After consultation with parents craft works focussed on very practical activities with embedded literacy. This 10 week course enabled 19 adults and their 28 children to develop their craft skills, making, cards, gifts and pottery at a ceramics workshop. As a result of this parents realised they could help their child to enjoy and achieve as this was what they themselves were now experiencing. Parents continued their commitment to learning and went on to skills for life courses and national tests in literacy and numeracy.



WIRRAL LIFELONG AND FAMILY LEARNING

Family Learning for Schools and Children's Centres



Next Step for Schools or Centres

Contact the Family Learning Service to arrange a visit.

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Printed January 2009



Family Learning for Schools and Children's Centres

We can run exciting courses to complement and support the work of schools and centres. The length of course is flexible - 2 or 4 hour workshops, short courses of up to 6 weeks, or longer courses of 1 or 2 terms. Courses can be tailor made and planned with you.

Benefits of family learning for schools

- Raising pupil achievements
- Helping effective communication between parents and schools
- Empowering parents to support their children's learning
- CPD for teachers in working with parents
- Supports Every Child Matters
- Helps parents to progress to other courses and qualifications

Family learning - what do we do?

Courses run in partnership with schools and children's centres. Adults work with their own child, find out what they learn and how to support their development. They can also develop their own skills in English and Maths

Case Studies

Family Language, Literacy & Numeracy

Family Health

Family Health focussed on key aspects of children's health, making healthy choices for the family, developing the maths and English skills needed to understand information on food and health.

Activities included - planning and making meals together, reading food labels, understanding weight and dental health statistics, understanding the importance of exercise and experiencing outdoor play activities with the family.

As a result of this course parents went on to Maths courses and qualifications, were more confident about making healthy food choices, reinforced healthy schools activity at home.

This was a Family Numeracy course supported by LSC funding. The 10 week course was planned and delivered jointly by Wirral Lifelong & Family Learning and school staff.



Wider Family Learning – fun engagement activities

Rap, Rhyme and Rhythm

This was developed by a teacher from St Laurence's Catholic Primary School with Wirral Lifelong & Family Learning Service to demonstrate to parents that much learning can be done through music.

This short family course attracted harder to reach parents, including dads, who made pitched instruments, told stories through music and rose to challenges set like samba and cyclic drumming. Communication skills between children and adults developed in an active and fun way. Learner comments included 'Enjoyed that. It's something I would never have done before.'

Getting it right - developing different models in partnership with schools

Exciting English

Exciting English was a partnership project for parents from the Bengali community. It was jointly developed between Wirral Lifelong & Family Learning Service, headteachers and staff at St Werburgh's and Woodlands Primaries. Parents worked with their children on fun literacy and story activities, visited Birkenhead library for Book Start packs, took part in a dance and drama workshop with a visiting artist and were encouraged to progress to an ESOL course.

The course ran for 5 weeks in each school and Wirral Multicultural Organisation supported the programme. A further course is planned for this academic year continuing the embedding of communication skills into exciting practical language activity.

