



Welcome to Family Learning – A Guide for Partner Organisations

Family Learning offers a wide range of courses where fathers, mothers and carers can find out how to help children learn at home and at school.

Family learning works. It works because parental engagement in family learning has a large and positive impact on children's learning, giving children greater confidence and self-belief, with measurable benefits to their literacy, language and numeracy skills. It works because, for parents – especially those parents considered 'hardest to reach' – the wish to better support their children is often the key motive in overcoming any practical, financial or dispositional barriers to learning.

<http://www.learningandwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/The-Inquiry-into-Family-Learning-in-England-and-Wales-Summary.pdf>

What is Family Learning?

Family Learning

- enables mothers, fathers, carers and children to learn together – from and with each other
- involves explicit learning outcomes for adults and children
- helps mothers, fathers and carers to support their children's learning
- builds confidence, skills and interest to go on learning in adults and children

Our Family Learning courses aim to:

- promote the family as a learning environment and build on home culture and experience
- enable parents and carers and children to learn together – from and with each other
- promote learning as a change in or affirmation of skills, attitudes and knowledge
- promote family relationships as supporting well-being and readiness to learn
- promote a culture of aspiration in adults and children
- give opportunities and build confidence to try out new skills and ideas
- promote community cohesion and sustainable living
- develop employability skills



What are the benefits of Family Learning for your organisation?

As a result of attending Family Learning courses we hope that parents and carers may:

- become more involved in their children's learning
- become more connected to your organisation and the wider community
- become more confident in communicating eg. with a class teacher or Family Support Worker
- model a positive attitude to all learning
- develop their social skills and personal wellbeing

Plus, children may make better progress and they love to see their parent or carer learning and achieving!

Research shows that family learning could increase the overall level of children's development by as much as 15 percentage points for those from disadvantaged groups and provide an average reading improvement equivalent to six months of reading age.

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How are the courses organised?

Our team of four curriculum co-ordinators work with partners to set up courses in schools, children's centres and other community settings across Northamptonshire. Each co-ordinator has a specific geographical and curriculum responsibility. We offer courses in FEML (Family English, Maths and Language) or WFL (Wider Family Learning). Courses can range from a single session to sessions of two hours a week over a whole term.

Longer adult only FEML courses are designed to offer learners the opportunity to progress to a Functional Skills course where learners can work towards qualifications in English and Maths.

Other courses include IT, cookery, crafts, gardening and healthy lifestyles. These can be joint courses where families learn together or adult only. In addition to courses for parents of primary, and sometimes secondary aged children, we can also offer courses focusing on Early Years.

All Family Learning courses support the development of emotional and digital resilience.

Courses are free to learners and there is usually no charge to partner organisations for the provision of tutors, teaching assistants and all resources. Charges may apply in some circumstances.

A co-ordinator will plan the course in detail with a partner before it starts and a Partnership Agreement will be provided for each course delivered in a centre. Partner organisations are responsible for promoting Family Learning courses and play a vital role in encouraging parents and carers to attend regularly. It should be noted that this free provision is targeted in areas of social disadvantage in the county and that learners undertaking FEML courses should not already have a level 2 qualifications in Maths and English.

Family Learning Contacts



www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/adultlearning

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