



Making a difference where you live

Family Learning News

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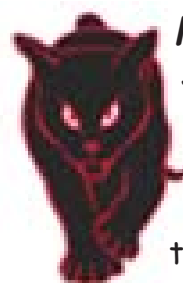


Making a difference where you live

Confidence on committees

Parents at Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School took part in a highly enjoyable course aimed at raising confidence and presentation skills. Committee skills were incorporated to support members of the school's P.T.A.

The course included a wide range of activities and learners completed their studies by designing, producing and presenting some amazing topics using the presentation software PowerPoint.



Family Learning through Football

S.A.F.C. is continuing to work with EiC and there is increasing demand for this enjoyable course.

Representatives from EiC were invited to the Sunderland—Millwall match to celebrate Family Learning Week. Some of us even had our names in the programme! Thankfully Sunderland won 1-0.

Family Learning Video & Powerpoint Presentation

If you would like to see our new promotional video, which gives an excellent taste of what Family Learning in the county is all about, or receive details of our powerpoint presentation please contact :

Margaret Richards, Family Programmes Manager.



Family Learning Website

Look out for more information from Education in the Community and partners on the Family Learning website.

www.family-learning.org.uk

The Team

The EiC Family Learning tutors are based at :

Skills for Life Centres

- Return to Learn
- Focus on Learning
- Learn East
- LEAP

Area Centres

- Dales
- Durham
- Easington
- North Durham
- Sedgfield

Tutors get together each term for staff development. Links have been established with the Educational Development Service and are proving to be invaluable to the tutors. Recently the service provided an excellent training session on the latest developments in the teaching of literacy and numeracy in schools.

Some Family Learning Programmes

- Family Literacy
- Family Numeracy
- Keeping up with the Children
- Family Finance
- Helping your Child
- Family History
- Family Learning through Football
- Early Start
- Family Learning ICT
- Share
- Family Learning with Music
- Dyslexia SOS

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Issue 1 December 2004 Education in the Community For Information about Family Learning in the county please contact:



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Equal Opportunities

We aim to ensure that everyone involved in Family Learning will be respected regardless of gender, age, race, culture, religion or disability.



Raising Achievement Through Family Learning

Education in the Community's Family Learning Team ran over 170 programmes in schools and centres across County Durham last year. This represents a 100% growth on the previous year. Tutors worked in primary schools and secondary schools with 1080 adults and 1010 children.

The bulk of EiC's Family Learning funding comes from the Learning and Skills Council with an additional amount from SRB6. EiC works closely with the SRB6 Partnership Project and the Family Learning Action Group (FLAG).

Photograph: Fathers and children taking part in Family Learning



Family Learning Makes a Difference

"Parents gain a greater understanding of how their child is taught in school and of the requirements of the National Curriculum." The Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) Report, Durham LEA, October 2003.

Family Learning works

"Family Learning is a key part of the educational provision in our school. It underpins our ethos as a community school and has a significant effect in raising motivation and achievement of adults and children alike." *Steve Moore, Headteacher, Greenland Community Infant School.*

21st Century Family Schools

Education in the Community is piloting a new way of working with schools and the wider community by establishing centres of excellence for the delivery of Family Learning. 2004-5 will see the development of four cluster groups of schools in the county. This will lead to more effective targeting and co-ordination of family learning activities. Look out for further information in Issue 2.

Left and above, adults and children receive certificates at the end of a Family Learning course organised and run by Return To Learn.



Family Learning Works!

Family Learning Makes Learning Together Fun

Family Learning News

Parents comment on Family Learning

“The course has made me and my son closer. It has also brought him on in leaps and bounds.” (a dad).

“In the past, when my daughter came home from school, I asked what she had been doing. She said, ‘Nothing.!’ Now, when she comes home, she asks what I have done today!” (a mum).

The Parsley Family

“What a lovely family! They really deserve to win their award,” says John Redman, Headteacher of Cockton Hill County Infants’ School, about the Parsley family. Father, John senior, attended a Family Literacy course run by Carol Neville of LEAP with his son, John junior, and this greatly benefited both of them. John senior was so enthused that the following year he signed up for a Family Numeracy course with Kirsten, his daughter. It was about this time that he began helping in school, something he still does now. For the two children the result was good progress with the basic skills curriculum and an all-round improvement in confidence and self-esteem. The family went on to receive a Learning Families Award at the Family Learning Conference at Ushaw College in July. They were then invited to attend the Adult Learner Awards evening in Chester-le-Street where author Anne Fine presented them with certificates.



Get off to an Early Start



Focus on Learning, in collaboration with Brandon and Deerness Surestart, has been running an Early Start course for parents and carers of young children to promote language development. Tutor Sheila Hughes says, “Language development is so important in giving young children a good start. This course is great fun. We have lots of interesting activities for parents and children together and some exciting trips. Each family makes a story sack to take home, together with a story book.” The adults also learn how their children develop language and how they can help in the home.

Adults and Children Learn Together in Hamsterley Forest

Parents and KS3 pupils on a Family Numeracy course at Moorside Community School, Consett develop their understanding through practical tasks. The course, run by Audrey Scott of Return to Learn, was described in a DfES good practice guide.



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The Road to Reading Project was set up to provide support for the National Sainsbury’s Bookstart Scheme. It finished in February 2003 after a successful 4-year period. Research carried out by Birmingham Bookstart showed the impact such a project could have on KS1 children. Over 900 parents and carers have had information passed on to them about the benefits of sharing books with their young children. Over 450 children in toddler groups in the final year alone were exposed to books of a very high quality and at least 19 individual learners have received one-to-one support in their own homes. This project has made a difference to the lives of a significant number of families in County Durham.

On Yer Bike!



Family Learning took to the road with a new course aimed at parents helping their sixteen year olds through their bike test.

Run in partnership with Return to Learn and Ace Motorcycles, more young people are now safely and legally on the road.

Success at Cotsford Infants

Parents at Cotsford Infant School enrolled on a 10 week course last September not knowing it would last for a year!

The first 10-week course was arranged by a Learn East tutor, Jeanna Osborne, to improve parents’ knowledge of how children learn maths in school today. With tutor support they were able to work 1-to-1 with their children to improve their skills. After this course the parents asked for another course to look at literacy in school. They felt that schooling had moved on and they needed to catch up!

When the courses finished the children’s SATS results showed a greater improvement than expected by the school. This has encouraged the school to offer the courses again this year to other parents.

At the end of the year a day out was organised at the Forbidden Corner to celebrate both the parents’ and the children’s success.

Share

Education in the Community and the SRB6 Partnership Project have worked closely together to develop Share in the county. EiC tutors Jeanna Osborne and Dorothy Massey have delivered Share facilitator training to teachers and tutors across the county.

Below a mother and daughter at home “share” and extend what they have learnt during a Share session.



Parents and Children Together (PACT)

A recent evaluation of Parents and Children Together reported that:

- * Reading age gains in all schools were substantial and in most cases those achieved by girls were matched by those achieved by boys.
- * Some children gained as much as twenty months or more in reading age score.
- * Parents indicated that they as parents had gained great insight into teaching methods and into what they as parents could do to support their children’s learning.
- * More than half of the parents reported that Family Learning had changed for the better their view of their child’s ability; it had given them confidence to deal with the school and to carry on with their own education.

Tigs is Lost

is the charming story of a baby tiger that goes missing after a series of adventures and is reunited with his mother. Written by two adult learners, the book was inspired during a Family Literacy course at Catchgate School run by Eve Gray from Return To Learn.



Family Learning Makes Learning Together Fun