



Cardiff and Vale College

Shortlisted for Family Learning in the Early Years

Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) is one of the largest colleges in the UK, delivering education and training within the Capital Region of Wales. They aim to develop skilled and employable people, with a focus on providing outstanding learning and enrichment experiences to ensure learners stand out and progress. Working within partnerships helps to maximise collective learning, remove barriers, and empower communities to reach their full potential.

Judges from Campaign for Learning and CACHE Alumni noted the collaboration and co-production really stood out in CAVC's work, as well as how far-reaching their work is within communities.

Family learning provision

CAVC's Family Learning Programme works with over 1,200 families across 80 schools in the region, co-produced with both families and service staff to find a way to make sure that community needs are registered and responded to, whilst still supporting the Curriculum for Wales. The team brings a wealth of skills and knowledge to cultivate interactive and dynamic learning experiences, alongside coffee mornings, stay and play sessions, and taster workshops.

Their engagement and marketing provide materials that are ESOL-friendly and reflect the diverse community that they serve. 'Walking the playground' and 'word of mouth' are core strong engagement tools to ensure they work meaningfully with communities.

Intergenerational learning courses have been designed for families with children aged 3-14 to support many goals, including child early development, critical thinking, creativity, storytelling and rhyming, and hands-on craft activities.

Early years learning has been specifically targeted with the courses 'Books, Stories and Rhymes' and 'Supporting your child's listening skills'. These have been carefully designed to reflect the three characteristics of effective learning: playing and exploring, active learning, and creating and thinking critically. Activities are themed to popular children's books like Owl Babies and The Very Hungry Caterpillar to get all generations interested and curious, encouraging attendees to play, explore and act out to stimulate curiosity and imagination.



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Problem-solving, analysis and evaluation skills are encouraged through books on playing Eye Spy together, bilingual reading, and handwriting skills to again encourage collaboration and learning together as a family to improve comprehension and communication skills.

Impact and next steps

CAVC uses learner voice and feedback to track the impact of the programme and have found that improved confidence was reported by 98% of the 1,200 adults reached, as well as 94% successfully completing accredited courses.

Anecdotally, schools have noted how disengaged families are now supporting their children both within and outside of school, alongside improvement to attendance and attainment. Most importantly, laughter and fun is evident in sessions, showing that attending families are building confidence and enthusiasm for learning.

With many parents recently discussing their need for more learning around their listening skills and phonics skills, the programme will continue with parental feedback informing new and upcoming courses in the upcoming year.