
family learning festival

*Start your adventure
October 2018*

Background for press

FAMILY LEARNING FESTIVAL

www.familylearningfestival.com

The Family Learning Festival inspires a love of learning in family life. It takes place every October and is the biggest festival celebrating and valuing learning as a family.

Family Learning Festival events are free local activities for all generations. They are designed to be fun, informal and promote a culture of learning as a family. They bring children, mums, dads, aunts, uncles, grandparents and their family friends together to try something new and learn with and from each other. Schools, libraries, museums, galleries, community centres and more open their doors for the Festival.

Great Family Learning Festival events feed families' curiosity and imagination. How can we tell stories that captivate? What makes our brains brilliant? How can we use physics to build a rocket that flies higher and further? They provide opportunities to discover and share talents, passions and interests and start on a family learning journey.

Lifelong learning charity, the Campaign for Learning, which organises the Family Learning Festival believe learning that takes place in family life should be valued as much as learning that takes place in school classrooms and formal education. They promote the family and home environment as an important context to learn important life skills and knowledge, and develop our abilities and positive attitudes to learning, which are key to becoming confident, motivated lifelong learners.

Intergenerational learning opportunities such as those provided by the Festival show that learning can be enjoyable, that all forms of learning are important and should be valued, that all family members have skills and talents to share, and that we are all learners whatever our age or background.

Family Learning Festival events aim to stimulate more family learning at home and further learning in the community – so children develop their learning skills and habits, parents to confidently support their children's education, and adults to find new hobbies and take their first step to realising their aspirations.

Family Learning Festival 2018

The Family Learning Festival 2018 takes place throughout October on the theme 'Try it Here and Take it Home'. Organisers can help families continue their learning journey at home with tips, tweets and activity ideas. The dedicated website www.familylearningfestival.com has graphics, inspiration and planning ideas.

Spokesperson: Juliette Collier, National Director, Campaign for Learning and expert on family learning

Juliette is a powerful and passionate advocate for the use of family learning approaches in developing motivation and confidence for learning for people of all ages, and for the importance of family learning in developing different and complimentary skills and knowledge to formal education. Juliette co-ordinates the Campaign for Learning's large scale research projects which aim to show the impact of family learning and parental engagement on a range of outcomes for both children and adults.

Juliette Collier on the Family Learning Festival said:

'The Family Learning Festival flies the flag for learning as a family and we hope even more families will spend time learning together in 2018. Learning together as a family is not only enjoyable, rewarding and fun; families can help build a love of learning that is key to achievement and has a big impact on our future wellbeing. The Festival is a time to celebrate and value family learning and what we learn from each other, and a great opportunity to start new learning adventures together.'

FAQs

What is family learning?

Family learning includes all types of informal and formal learning that involve more than one generation, including extended families and carers. It happens outside of formal institutions but can also happen in conjunction with them, with or without professional support. The Campaign for Learning defines family to include friends.

Why family learning matters for children and adults

- Research shows that children stand a much better chance in life if their parents value and support learning. In the early years, parental involvement has a significant impact on children's cognitive development and literacy and number skills. Parental involvement is a more powerful force than family background, size of family and level of parental education. (The Impact of Parental Involvement, Parental Support and Family Education on Pupil Achievement and Adjustment: A Literature Review, Department for Education, Research Report 433, Professor Charles Desforges et Alberto Abouchaar, 2003)
- Learning together as a family builds confidence and has a measurable impact on children's literacy development. (Family Literacy in Europe: using parental support initiatives to enhance early literacy development, Carpentieri et al
http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/school/doc/family-literacy_en.pdf)
- Supported family learning opportunities can build adults' confidence to learn and lead them to pursue further learning including informal and formal courses.

Press release

www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk/news/families-try-something-new-this-october

Case Studies

Case studies can be found at www.familylearningfestival.com/news

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