



Wiltshire Family Learning Spring newsletter April 2018

Growing a lifelong love of learning with families in Wiltshire
Discover opportunities – Develop skills – Achieve ambitions

Family Learning leads to better lives for families by improving skills and confidence

Welcome!

Here is our first newsletter to let you know more about the Family Learning service, information about what we do and how you can contact us. We also want to let you know what the learners think about what we do and how important our partners are to make sure our service engages with the learners who will benefit most.

Wiltshire Family Learning

The Wiltshire Family Learning team is based in Wiltshire Council's School Effectiveness team. We will support adults back into work and help parents/carers who have few qualifications, or not working, to support their children's learning and life chances by:

- Delivering programmes locally in Wiltshire for parents/carers who want to get back into learning.
- Offering learners long term, planned programmes with clear progression pathways leading to the development of new skills, improved personal achievements and outcomes.
- Planning programmes that lead to qualifications, employability skills, jobs and volunteering.

What is Family Learning and why is it important?



Family Learning recognises the important role of parents/carers as a child's first teacher. As well as understanding how to support their children's learning at home, Family Learning courses give parents/carers the opportunity to rediscover a love of learning. By learning in a relaxed and informal way, parent/carers can develop their own skills, achieve qualifications, find work and improve the whole family's prospects and well-being.

Family Learning courses

The free courses on offer have been developed to encourage engagement and long term learning. The Discover Develop Achieve pathways have clear aims so that learners can choose their next steps. These are linked to improving early years development, maths and English skills, budgeting, wellbeing and helping parents/carers support their children with their homework. There is also the option to achieve a nationally recognised qualification.



What learners can expect

- Small, welcoming groups
- Qualified and friendly tutors
- Assessment of skills and knowledge to support learning
- Extra help and support, as appropriate
- An individual learning plan to suit abilities and needs
- Reviews of progress
- Response to complaints or concern
- Opportunities to comment on our level of service
- Guidance with next steps and career plans
- Free childcare may be available to help learners take part in some Family Learning courses.

Family Learning partners

The Family Learning team relies very much on good partnership relationships. We work closely with The Rise Trust, Spurgeon's Children's charity, primary schools, parent support advisers, outreach groups, housing associations, Wiltshire Council's families team, welfare support and community engagement managers, employment and voluntary links. This ensures we engage with groups who are furthest from education and work.

The Disadvantaged Learner Charter has supported our service further as schools want to ensure that they do their best to close the attainment gap for children. Families play a great part to encourage their children to learn and reach their full potential...whilst returning to learning themselves.



Working in the Family Learning team



My name is Cara Williams, I am one of the Family Learning team tutors. I taught in

primary schools for 12 years across both key stages. I also took the lead on the science curriculum. I love teaching, having the privilege of watching the children progress, having those light bulb moments and grow in confidence. What attracted me to joining the Family Learning team is the flexibility of working hours, enabling me to fit working around my young family.

Since joining the Family Learning team, I have joined a team who work collaboratively, share ideas, resources and truly support each other. A team who all have the best interests of the learners at heart and are willing to go the extra mile. Most importantly, the relationships with the learners is valued and central to our success. The courses and pathways are built around what the learners want and need, every single learner, progresses at their own pace. We use modern methods to communicate in ways the learners are comfortable with and we develop meaningful relationships with them. When they succeed, we feel like we do too. I love watching my learners develop their bond with their children and find new ways to help them. I get excited when they take their learning further and achieve more than expected.

I'm excited about the new chapter for Family Learning; extending and improving our provision further.

Family Learning learners support the service

All learners are invited to join our Learner Focus Group. Their feedback helps shape our service. We have regional groups and meet frequently. We value honest feedback. We're always listening and keen to talk about topics and subjects that help progress learning and returning to employment.



Hannah, a Calne learner and member of the North Learner Focus Group

Hannah has returned to learning recently.

Having heard about the Confidence and New Direction at Calne Children's Centre; Hannah was keen to find out more. Her experience of school had been negative and she left with no qualifications. Hannah felt that the course might support her confidence and first steps back to learning. Hannah received a phone call from a Family Learning tutor. Hannah said that 'It was nice to talk to the tutor first, she explained what the course was about and I thought it sounded really interesting. She also told me about Keeping up with the Children English. The courses were being delivered nearby so I could attend both. There was free childcare too. This meant that my young son could be looked after. It was great to see the tutor at the first session; she made me feel very welcome. I was really nervous about stepping through the door.'

Hannah has found the Keeping up with the Children English course useful to help her son with ASD with his home learning. She has tools to understand the new way of teaching. Her own English is improving too. The Confidence and New Directions course has introduced Hannah to new friends; 'The group is really friendly and I have made new friends as I am quite new to the area. Another learner also goes to both courses and we walk up to the school together. I used to stay at home all day apart from coming out to pick up the kids.'

'I have recently met the Building Bridges support worker. She seems nice. She has helped me plan more steps back to learning and other things.'



'I feel I have started 2018 with a clean slate. I now feel very positive about the future.'

The Confidence and New Directions is a five week course focusing on helping learners feeling confident in daily life and managing stress levels. The Keeping up with the Children English course supports learners to support their children with their home learning whilst helping them with their own English too.

Building Bridges

The Building Bridges programme <http://buildingbridgessw.org.uk/> supports people across Swindon and Wiltshire who are facing significant challenges in being able to develop their skills, access education or move towards the world of work. The Family Learning development workers work very closely with tutors to ensure additional support for those learners who choose to join the Building Bridges project.

What next?

Learners receive information and advice before, during and after their learning journey. This ensures they know about all options available. We'll talk about where to go to find help with further learning, career searches, steps to work, stress and emotional well-being, budgeting, family advice, volunteering options and wellbeing.



Working with Wiltshire...

Wiltshire Family Learning is currently delivering family learning courses in ten of Wiltshire's area boards. We are delivering courses in seventeen primary schools and four children's centres. We have been based at some of the venues since the beginning of the academic year progressing learners from Discover, an introduction to learning to Develop, informal short courses.

Some learners are now accessing the Achieve courses. The courses have clear messages about routes to employment. Achieve courses can also offer English and maths nationally recognised qualifications (E1-L2).

So what?

75% of learners who have accessed programmes this year have identified a marked improvement in

- Helping their child learn
- Better communication skills
- Identifying their own strengths and skills
- General confidence

Comments from learners about future plans include:

Mere Primary School Discover Puppets
'To read more with my child.'

Westbury Develop Walk and Talk

'I get out more. I have started volunteering again!'

Salisbury City Children's Centre Develop Music Box

'To continue learning – better my job prospects.'

Devizes Children's Centre

Develop Story Box

'To do more courses and help my daughter improve.'

Amesbury Christ the King Primary School
Achieve Functional Skills maths

'To enrol on a teaching assistant course.'

Contact us

Please call and talk to us; we'd love to hear from you!



Contact Wiltshire Family Learning
01225 770478

Visit our website to find out more about us and the courses that are available
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/family-learning



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