

Family learning

Enjoying learning together

"Taking part in Family learning has meant that I feel more able to support my child with his learning. His teacher says he is doing so much better at school since I went on the course."

- Learning Together within the family is a great opportunity to show your child that you value learning
- The best start you can give your child in terms of their education is talking to them
- Taking part in learning as an adult can lead to increased confidence, skills and even qualifications
- Families are the main context of learning for most people. Learning within the family is normally more lasting and influential than any other. Family life provides the foundation and context of learning.

Family Learning is a planned, purposeful activity which engages adults and children in learning together and adults in a caring role in learning about their child's learning and how best to support that learning.

- For all adults in the parenting role including grandparents, foster carers and childminders.
- Workshops or short sessions and longer courses aimed at helping parents to support their child at all stages of their learning. Many programmes are aimed at supporting adults to gain qualifications.
- During the school day and in the evenings.
- In schools, Children's Centres, Extended Schools, libraries or community venues see website www.familylearning.uk.com for an up to date list of local programmes and venues.

Family Learning funding is available to every local authority in the country to engage adults into learning through their children's learning.

On the Isle of Wight the Isle of Wight Council and the local Learning and Skills Council fund Family Learning Programmes to enable adults to return to learning while supporting their children's learning. The Council has a team of teachers, learning support assistants and co-ordinators who deliver Family Programmes throughout the Island.

Wider Family Learning covers all aspects of the national curriculum including health issues, citizenship, eco programmes, and the arts. Some courses are accredited.

Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy Programmes aim to support the whole family with their Literacy and Numeracy Skills in a variety of ways. This includes activities, making games and resources to use at home; discussions, working alongside their children. These programmes enable adults to achieve qualifications if desired.

As well as programmes where parents work with their children, the service also offers adult only sessions with a tutor where parents learn about the curriculum and make resources to support children's learning at home.

All Family Learning Programmes effectively support for families in school and at home with learning.

Working with parents in groups is a powerful means to provide experiential learning opportunities, build peer support networks as well as a way for parents and children to articulate their needs.

Contact the Family Learning Manager on 01983 290696.

ACTION

Talk to your child about their learning and life in school. It's never too late to return to learning even if you did not enjoy it the first time around. Adult and Community Learning and especially Family Learning Programmes are free or low cost to encourage adults back to learning. Learning as an adult is fun!

WHAT TO SAY

Be positive about your child's efforts with learning new skills. Enrolling on a Family Learning course will help you to keep up with the children and see how things are taught so that you can help them at home.

WARNING SIGNS

If you are concerned about how your child is coping with learning or you do not feel able to help your child you are not alone. Talk to their teacher or to the Family Learning team for advice.

PREVENTION

You can brush up your own literacy and numeracy skills so that you are better able to help your child, by contacting the Family Learning team or your local College.

CONTACTS

- Family Learning Manager
01983 290696

*Check the ACPC website for the latest phone numbers:
www.iwight.com/parents*