
Family Learning in England

AGENDA FOR FAMILY LEARNING SEMINAR
NORTHERN IRELAND IMPACT FORUM & EPALE
7 March 2018 - NICVA

Susan Easton, Head of Digital and Family Learning

 LEARNING AND
WORK INSTITUTE

 SEFYDLIAD DYSGU A GWAITH
LEARNING AND WORK INSTITUTE

 Scotland's Learning Partnership

Forum for Adult Learning  ECORYS 



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Learning and Work Institute

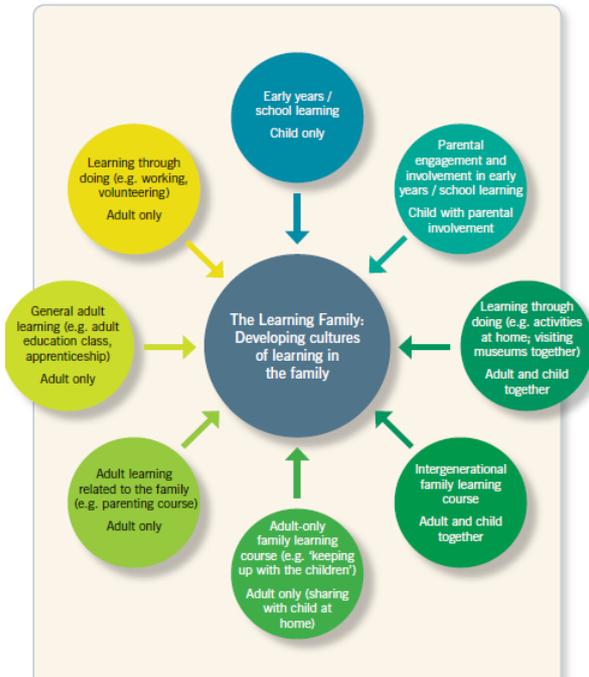
- L&W is an independent policy and research organisation dedicated to promoting lifelong learning, full employment and inclusion.
- We managed the Independent Inquiry into Family Learning in England and Wales [“Family Learning Works”](#)
- On behalf of Department for Education, we manage the National Family Learning Forum (NFL) and FLLAG



What is family learning?

- Encourages adults to support children's learning
- Helps adults understand their role in their children's learning.
- Raises expectations and aspirations of children and adults.
- Helps break cycles of intergenerational deprivation.





What is family learning?

'Family learning' refers to any learning activity that involves both children and adult family members, where learning outcomes are intended for both, and that contributes to a culture of learning in the family.

Family Learning

Adult Skills

- Maths and English: 49% adults below level of numeracy expected for 11 year old (Entry level 3): for literacy it is 15%
- Digital: 11.5m people in UK lack basic digital skills
- Informal engagement activities to formal, accredited learning programmes
- Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy (FLLN) programmes
- Wider Family Learning (WFL) programmes which encourage adults to engage with their children in learning.
- “Good parenting skills”, “Learning and Playing” and “Creativity and Games”, Family reading, language, maths and parenting programmes

Family Learning Impact Survey (December 2015) Results

Learner has got a job since attending Family Learning course or made progress in an existing role.



55%

Literacy and Numeracy has improved (learner reads a wider range of material, has an improved ability to write more accurately and/or knowledge of maths has improved)



95%

Learner is more confident in their own abilities and more confident to support their child with their learning/homework.



100%

Learner has made new friends since attending a Family Learning course.



95%

Learner has started voluntary work or become more involved with school/children's centre/community group.



65%

Family Learning has had a positive effect on your family's physical or emotional wellbeing (healthier eating habits, more exercise, getting out more as a family, reduced stress levels).



85%

The Attainment Gap

- Only 36.8 per cent of pupils from poorer backgrounds achieve an A*–C grade in English and maths GCSE, compared with 63 per cent for all other pupils: a 26.2 percentage point gap
- [Family Learning Works](#) found that Family Learning can increase children's attainment by as much as 15 percentage point for children from disadvantaged families

Benefits - Children

- Maintain, improve or rebuild father/mother– child relationships and sibling relationships
- Increase their confidence
- Improve early learning
- Support to learn and achieve at school
- Raise aspirations

Family Learning benefits schools

- Increased attendance at parents' evenings
- Increased parental willingness to support the school
- Increased parental involvement in school life
- Improved understanding amongst parents/ carers about how to manage children's behaviour
- Increased parental responsibility
- Positive impact on children's behaviour in the classroom (Ofsted).
- Higher educational aspirations amongst parents/carers and their children
- Narrows the gap between lowest and highest achievers.

Policy

- Department for Education priorities: Social Mobility, Technical education, Apprenticeships, Learning throughout Adult Life, Children's attainment
- No National Family Learning Policy

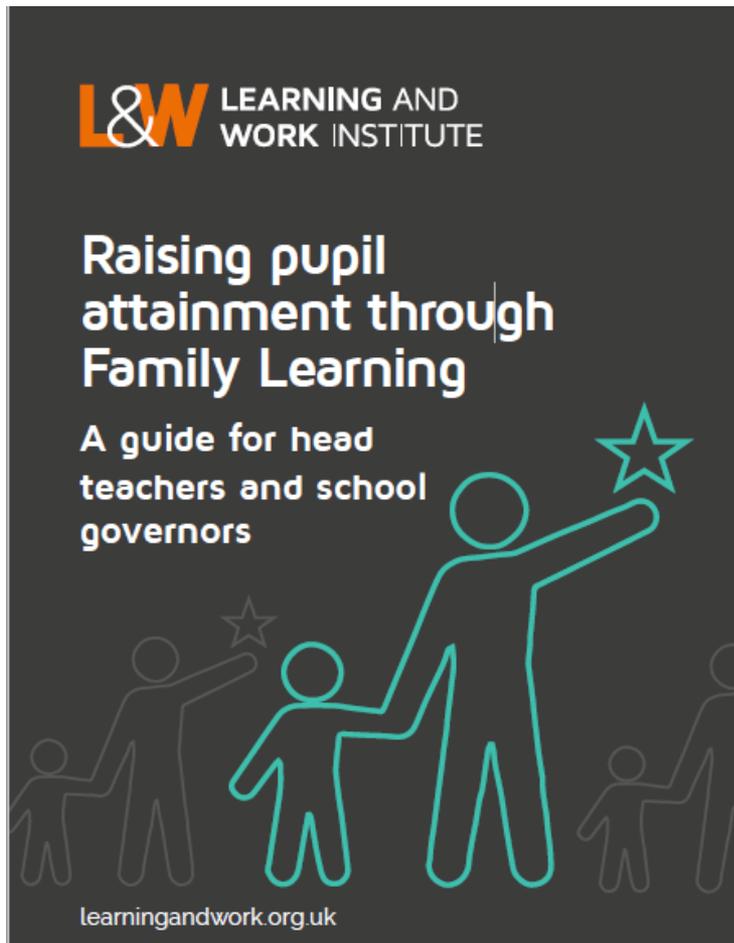
Family Learning - Pupil Premium

- [Family Learning Works](#), recommended that all schools should include family learning programmes to increase children's levels of attainment at school

Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG)

- Treorchy Primary School
(Family Learning Room)
- Raise expectations of adults for themselves and for their children
- Families support children at home

Guide to use of Pupil Premium



- Supports head teachers and school governors to invest Pupil Premium in Family Learning programmes
- Provides evidence of the impact of Family Learning on disadvantaged pupils and their families
- includes the information to invest Pupil Premium funding to improve outcomes for children

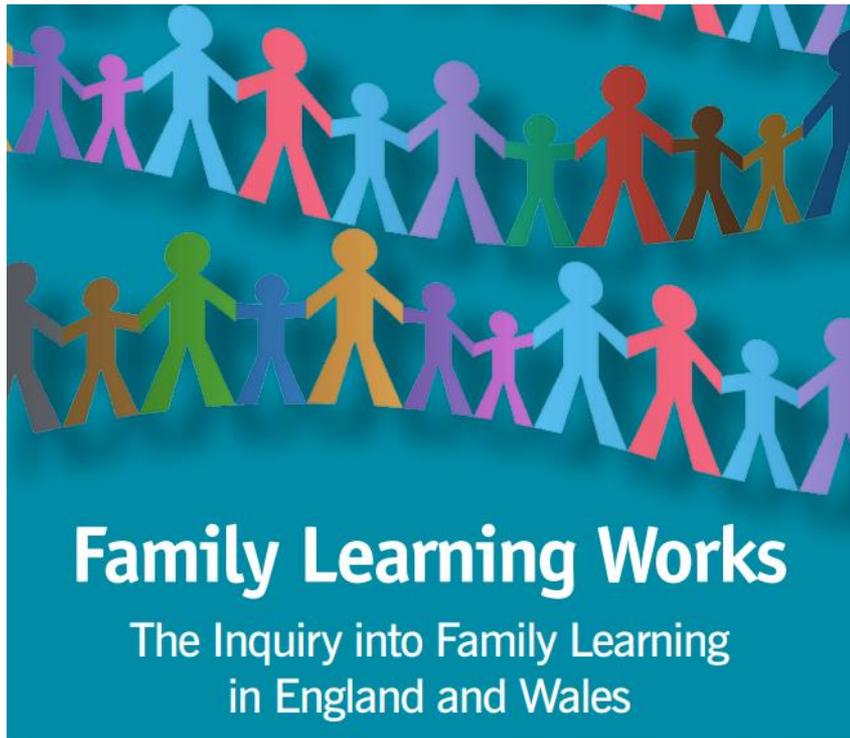
Social Mobility

- [Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential DfE December 2017](#)
- A plan for improving social mobility through education
- Ambition 1: Close the 'word gap' in the early years
- Ambition 2: Close the attainment gap in school while continuing to raise standards for all
- Ambition 3: High quality post-16 education choices for all young people
- Ambition 4: Everyone achieving their potential in rewarding careers
- Opportunity Areas – bringing together our approach to tackle entrenched disadvantage

Policy Priorities - Children's Attainment

- Home learning Environment (HLE)
- Aside from maternal education, HLE is the single biggest influence on a child's vocabulary at age 3
- Quality of HLE is lower in disadvantaged families
- Gap in time spent on key activities (e.g. reading to children is) has widened for low and high educated parents since the 1970s, when there was no appreciable gap

L&W Policy



“Family learning can close the attainment gap and help end the ‘life-chance lottery’ by creating a culture of aspiration in every family.”

National Family Learning Forum and FLLAG

Resources:

https://padlet.com/usan_easton1/family_learning

EU UK Coordinator FL programme 2017 - 2019

Family Learning Forum (NFLF) and FLLAG (Family Learning Local Authority Group)

LEARNER STORIES **CASE STUDIES** **REPORTS**

Leeds learner story
I had never read to my son until I attended the 'Story Sacks' and 'Play Language' courses."

Employment & Skills
Case Study
Family Learning
Team: Projects & Programmes Ward: Crossgates

Strengthening Families - Blackburn and
Strengthening families is a nationally recognised evidence based parenting programme for parents/caregivers and young people aged 10 to 14 years.

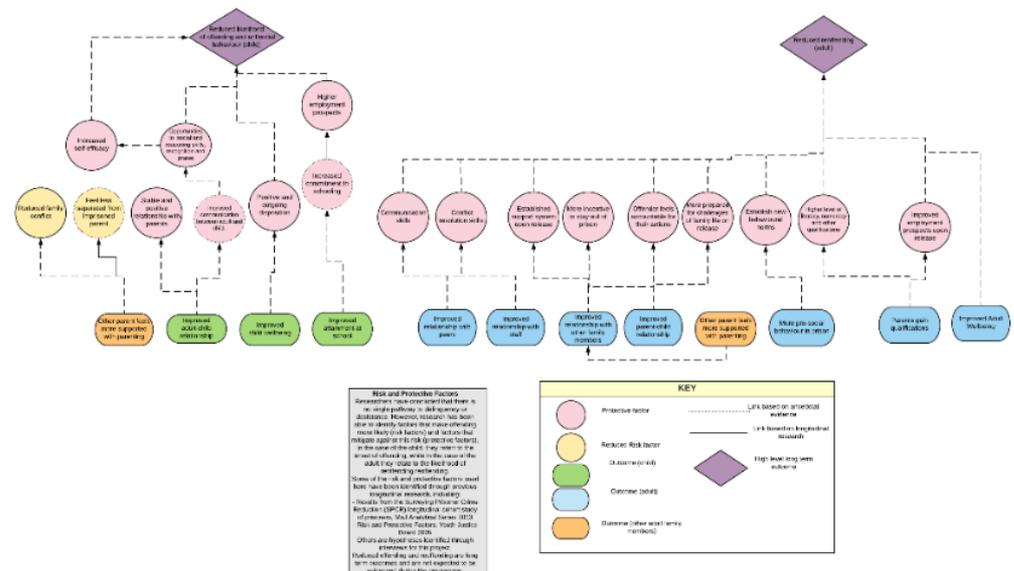
Family Learning Works
The Inquiry into Family Learning in England and Wales

niace_family_learning_report_PDF document
niace

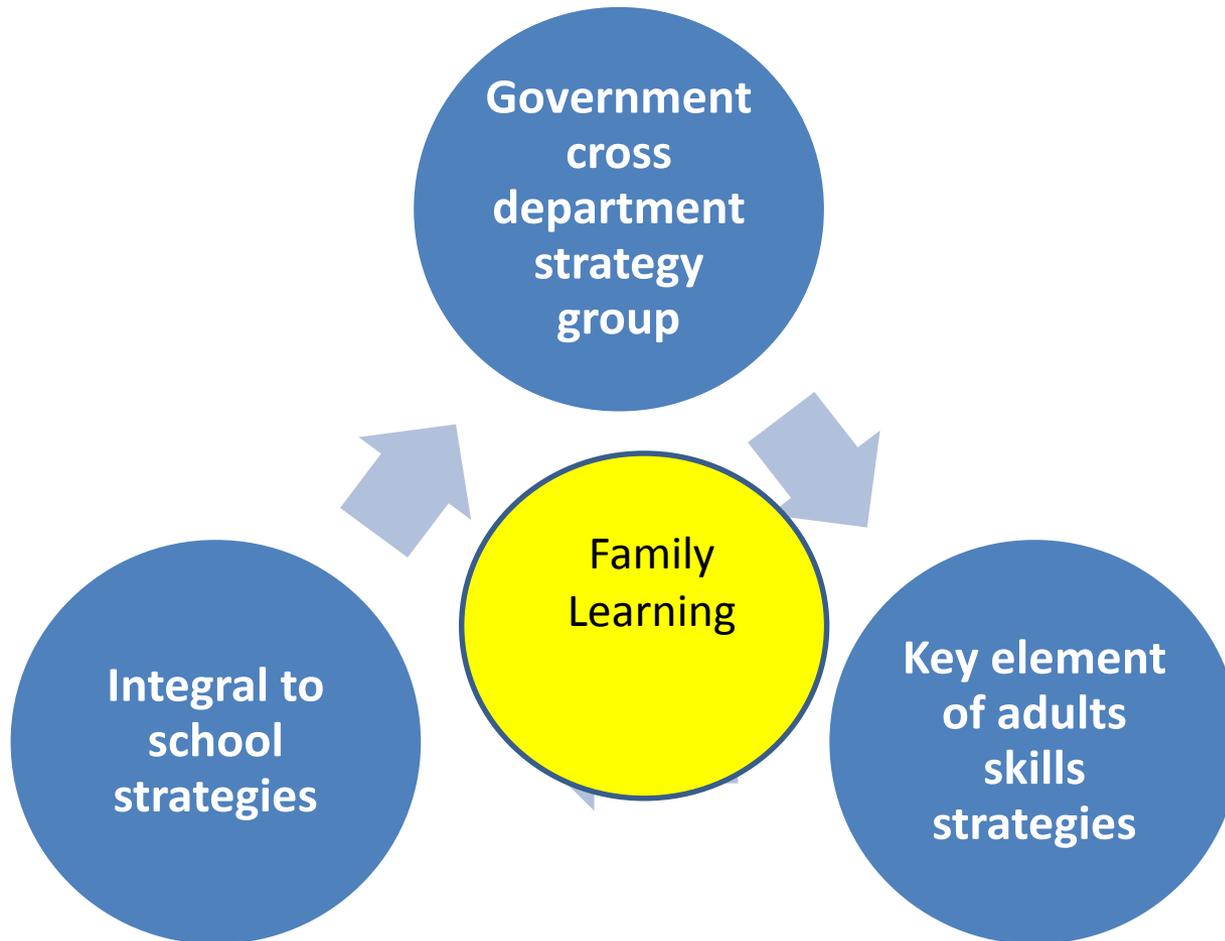
Confident Parent Confident

Evidence of impact

To argue successfully for Family Learning, providers must make a strong case for family learning



Priorities Moving Forward – supporting social mobility



CONTACT

susan.easton@learningandwork.org.uk

@susaneaston