

Families Learning Together

This is a ten-hour course for parents/carers of children two to four years old.

Each session will follow a similar format and will include: activities for free play; break time and adult-led activity; and time for parents/carers to focus on aspects of parenting skills.

The course aims to give parents/carers and children the opportunity to:

- interact together through a range of activities;
- develop children's language and communication skills;
- learn new skills to share at home;
- explore children's learning through the Early Years Foundation Stage;
- explore some of the challenges of being a parent;
- feel more confident about supporting children starting school; and
- keep a diary of activities you do on the course and at home.

'Every Child Matters' outcomes:

- ✓ Stay safe
- ✓ Be healthy
- ✓ Enjoy and achieve
- ✓ Make a positive contribution
- ✓ Achieve economic well-being

Generic outcomes: ¹

- ✓ New skills
- ✓ Gains in confidence and understanding
- ✓ Improved communication
- ✓ Changed behaviours
- ✓ Changed relationships with family and community

1. Lamb, P., Fairfax-Cholmeley, K., and Thomas, M. (2008) *Families, Learning and Progression: A Resource Pack for Practitioners and Managers*. Leicester: NIACE.



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Scheme of work

Session	Content
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: aims and objectives • Identify memories of starting school • Identify aspects of Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) linked to the activities in the session • Identify three ways in which children learn • Identify learning styles • Support child with creative activities • Share rhymes or story with child
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share observations of home activities with others in the group • Give positive feedback • Support child with creative activities • Identify three ways in which listening is important for the developing child • Share a story/rhyme with child
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share observations of home activities with others in the group • Share something from home culture and explain choice • Discuss routines and why they are important for children • Identify the three learning outcomes of an activity for child • Explore how adults can encourage children • Support child with creative activities
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share observations of home activities with others in the group • Give clear positive feedback • Identify something you enjoy doing – me time • Identify examples of creative activities to do with your child • Support child with creative activities – making a treasure box
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share observations of home activities with others in the group • Share something we have enjoyed/done for ourselves – me time • Write a promise to yourself • Recap learning outcomes from the course • Identify three learning outcomes of an activity for a child • Give three examples of child-led (initiated) play and a reason why it is important • Give an examples of an adult interaction and a reason for when it would be appropriate • Evaluation

Session 1

Aims

- Explore the importance of children's learning.
- Explore the importance of starting school in your child's life.
- Explore children's learning through the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Explore a range of creative activities.
- Understand child-led (initiated) play and adult-led play.

Objectives

- Identify memories of starting school.
- Identify aspects of Early Years Foundation Stage linked to the activities in the session.
- Identify three ways in which children learn.
- Identify learning styles.
- Support child with creative activities.
- Share rhymes or story with child.

Benefits for the children

- Use their imagination.
- Make choices.
- Explore a range of creative activities and materials.
- Develop their speaking and listening skills.

Duration	Topic	Activity	Tools
10 mins	Introduction and welcome	Welcome	Flip chart and name badges
5 mins	Course introduction	Explain course aims and aims of session	Handout of session plan, course aims and scheme of work Starting points Enrolment forms/Individual Learning Plans (ILP)
5 mins	Group agreement	Discussion and recording of group agreement for the course	Flip chart and pens
10 mins	Starting school: What do you remember from your childhood?	Discussion of what people remember about starting school from their childhood	Flip chart to record memories of starting school
10 mins	Brief introduction to aspects of the Early Years Foundation Stage	Discussion: What is useful about looking at the EYFS?	Handouts Flip chart
10 mins	Why is having fun while learning so important?	Discussion about the way children and adults learn. Discussion on child-led and adult-led play	Flip chart and pen Handout

Duration	Topic	Activity	Tools
10 mins	How do we learn? Learning styles	Discussion and learning styles quiz or activity. Think about how children learn	Learning styles quiz or activity
15 mins	Free play (children)/ Starting Points/ Initial Assessment (adults)	Activities for free play: play dough, sand tray, threading activity, paper and crayons, and a range of other toys	Play dough, sand tray, threading activity, paper, crayons, toys for free play
15 mins	Making paint tracks, printing with animal and Duplo figures	Alongside free play, when children are interested, adult and child make paint tracks with animal and Duplo figures, etc.	Materials for making paint tracks, e.g. paper, paint, animal and Duplo figures
5 mins	Tidy up time	Help with clearing away	
5 mins	Circle time	Sitting in a circle, share a rhyme or song together	
5 mins	Back to the classroom	Children back to their classroom	
10 mins	Recap and session evaluation/tea/coffee	On Post-it notes or discussion make brief evaluation	Post-it notes Evaluation forms
5 mins	Ideas for home activities	Share stories, make tracks, footprints, handprints, etc. Keep a simple record/diary/scrapbook/photos/drawings, etc.	Scrapbook Disposable camera

Differentiation:

Evaluation:

Actions:

Session 2

Aims

- Explore a range of creative activities.
- Understand child-led (initiated) play and adult-led play.
- Understand the importance of listening skills.
- Share observation from home activities.

Objectives

- Share observations of home activities with others in the group.
- Give positive feedback.
- Support child with creative activities.
- Identify three ways in which listening is important for the developing child.
- Share a story/rhyme with child.

Benefits for the children

- Use their imagination.
- Make choices.
- Explore a range of creative activities and materials.
- Develop their speaking and listening skills.

Duration	Topic	Activity	Tools
10 mins	Introductions and welcome	Designing a name badge/sticky label Talk to the person next to you Introduce yourself and them: 'My name is... and I like to... and this is...'	Name badges, sticky labels
10 mins	Discussion of home activities	Explore how people have got on with home activities/encourage them to share observations and show their scrapbooks Discussion about importance of culture and home Next week, bring in something from your culture/home environment to talk about	
10 mins	Discussion about last week and positive feedback	Last week I noticed that... Talk to the person next to you and think of a positive comment about your child	Flip chart to record ways in which to give positive praise. 50/100 ways to say well done
25 mins	Watch DVD clip of parent and child interacting	What did you notice? How did the adult encourage the child? What did she say?	Flip chart and pens Write down the key points DVD player
10 mins	Why is having fun while learning so important?	Discussion about the way children and adults learn	Flip chart and pen Handout

Duration	Topic	Activity	Tools
10 mins	Why is listening important?	Activity in pairs, listening attentively/not listening. Discussion: Why is listening to children important?	Flip chart Record key points from discussion and why listening is important for children
20 mins	Free play (children)/ and printing activity Starting Points/Initial Assessment (adults)	Activities for free play: play dough, sand tray, threading activity, paper and crayons, and a range of other toys Also making marks/printing, printing with a sponge, leaves, hands, etc.	Play dough, sand tray, threading activity, paper, crayons, etc., toys for free play Paint/sponges/leaves, etc. for printing/painting
5 mins	Tidy up time	Everyone help with clearing up, remembering to give positive feedback	
10 mins	Circle time	Share a story or song together	A range of books: e.g. <i>Starting School</i> , <i>Spot Goes to the Farm</i> , <i>Tom and Pippo Go for a Walk</i>
10 mins	How do we learn? Learning styles	Discussion and learning styles quiz or activity	Learning styles quiz or activity
10 mins	Session evaluation/ tidy up time	On Post-it notes or discussion make brief evaluation/help with clearing away	Post-it notes
5 mins	Ideas for home activities	Share stories Note down observations about child Keep a simple record/diary/ scrapbook/photos/drawings, etc.	Scrapbook Disposable camera (if people don't have access to their own camera)

Differentiation:

Evaluation:

Actions:

Session 3

Aims

- Explore play activities to support children starting school.
- Explore the Early Years Foundation Stage goals.
- Understand child-led (initiated) play and adult-led play.
- Share home culture and celebrate difference.
- Share observation from home activities.

Objectives

- Share observations of home activities with others in the group.
- Share something from home culture and explain choice.
- Discuss routines and why they are important for children.
- Identify the three learning outcomes of an activity for child.
- Explore how adults can encourage children.
- Support child with creative activities.

Benefits for the children

- Use their imagination.
- Make choices.
- Explore a range of creative activities and materials.
- Develop their speaking and listening skills.

Duration	Topic	Activity	Tools
10 mins	Introduction and welcome	Explore how people have found home activities/encourage them to share observations	
10 mins	Discussion about last week and positive feedback	'Last week I noticed that....' Talk to the person next to you and think of a positive comment about your child	Flip chart to record ways in which to give positive praise
10 mins	Sharing something from home culture	Each person to talk about what they have brought in from their home culture	Flip chart
10 mins	Discussion: routines and starting school	Discussion about routines, why are they important? In pairs write down your usual family routine, how starting school may change routines. How can parent/carers support these changes positively?	Model routine Flip chart to record ideas
15 mins	Watch DVD to illustrate adult child interaction	What did you notice? How did the adult encourage the children?	Flip chart and pens Write down the key points DVD

Duration	Topic	Activity	Tools
10 mins	Discussion of child-led (initiated) play and adult interaction	What are they? Why are they important? Discussion of observation What do you remember from your childhood about play? Think about what your child is learning from what they do	Handouts Flip chart and pen
10 mins	Explanation about activities	Sensory activity: Guess the smell and draw a picture of it Making a treasure box	Boxes, fabrics, glue, etc.
30 mins	Free play (children)/ Starting Points/Initial Assessment (adults) Sensory activities	Activities for free play: play dough, sand tray, threading activity, paper and crayons, and a range of other toys When children are interested, guess the smells and/or mix and explore the solid and liquid forms of corn flour in water Make a treasure box	Play dough, sand tray, threading activity, paper, crayons and toys for free play Corn flour, containers, tray, water
5 mins	Circle time	Share rhymes, Goodbye song	
5 mins	Tidy up time Session evaluation	On Post-it notes or discussion make brief evaluation/help with clearing away	Post-it notes Write down three things your child learned today
5 mins	Ideas for home activities	Continue with making treasure box Keep a simple record/diary/ scrapbook/photos/ drawings, etc.	Scrapbook

Differentiation:

Evaluation:

Actions:

Session 4

Aims

- Explore play activities to support children starting school.
- Explore home cultures.
- Value ourselves.
- Share observations from home activities.

Objectives

- Share observations of home activities with others in the group.
- Give clear positive feedback.
- Identify something you enjoy doing – me time.
- Identify examples of creative activities to do with your child.
- Support child to make a treasure box.
- Support child with creative activities – making a treasure box.

Benefits for the children

- Use their imagination.
- Make choices.
- Explore a range of creative activities and materials.
- Develop their speaking and listening skills.

Duration	Topic	Activity	Tools
10 mins	Introduction and welcome Discussion of home activities	Explore how people have found home activities/encourage them to share observations	
10 mins	Discussion about last week and positive feedback	'Last week I noticed that...' Talk to the person next to you and think of a positive comment about your child	Flip chart to record ways in which to give positive praise
15 mins	Sharing something from home culture	Each person to talk about what they have brought in from their home culture	Flip chart
10 mins	Valuing yourself	Discussion about what we do to value ourselves. In pairs, talk about what we like to do	Flip chart
15 mins	Creative activities	Creative activities	Paints/fabric, etc.
15 mins	Free play (children)/ Starting Points/Initial Assessment (adults)	Activities for free play: play dough, sand tray, threading activity, paper and crayons, etc. and a range of other toys	Play dough, sand tray, threading activity, paper, crayons and toys for free play

Duration	Topic	Activity	Tool
30 mins	Making a treasure box	Alongside free play, making a treasure box	Boxes, fabric, glue, etc.
5 mins	Tidy up time Session evaluation	On Post-it notes or discussion make brief evaluation/help with clearing away	Post-it notes
5 mins	Circle time	Share songs/rhymes, Goodbye song	
5 mins	Ideas for home activities	Share drawing, shapes and textures in the home, think about what you would each want in a treasure box. Diary/scrapbook/photos/drawings, etc.	Scrapbook

Differentiation:

Evaluation:

Actions:

Session 5

Aims

- Explore play activities to support children starting school.
- Explore the Early Years Foundation Stage.
- Understand child-led (initiated) play and adult interactions.
- Share observation from home activities.
- Recap on the course.
- Identify next steps – further learning.

Objectives

- Share observations of home activities with others in the group.
- Share something we have enjoyed/done for ourselves – me time.
- Write a promise to yourself.
- Recap learning outcomes from the course.
- Identify three learning outcomes of an activity for child.
- Give three examples of child-led (initiated) play and a reason for why it is important.
- Give an examples of an adult interaction and a reason for when it would be appropriate.

Benefits for the children

- Use their imagination.
- Make choices.
- Explore a range of creative activities and materials.
- Develop their speaking and listening skills.

Duration	Topic	Activity	Tools
10 mins	Introduction and welcome	Welcome each adult and child to the group Circle time – sing Hello song using children's names Finger rhymes (Ask for ideas from parents/carers)	
5 mins	Discussion of home activities	Explore how people have found home activities/encourage them to share observations	
5 mins	Early Years Foundation Stage	Discussion of observations – building up a picture	Early Years Foundation Stage
10 mins	Child-led (initiated) play and adult interaction	Recap – give three examples of child-led play and a reason for why it is important. Give an example of an adult interaction and when it would be appropriate. Discussion from observations from the week.	Flip chart and pen

Duration	Topic	Activity	Tools
15 mins	Free play (children)/ observation (adults)	Activities for free play: play dough, sand tray, threading activity, paper and crayons, etc. and a range of other toys	Play dough, sand tray, threading activity, paper, crayons and toys for free play
15 mins	Free painting/printing	Alongside free play, opportunities for free painting/printing/drawing activities	Paint/pencils, paper etc.
20 mins	Books/scrapbooks/ diary	Finish scrapbook/folder of ideas/ observations/drawings/photographs Share with child	Paper/scrapbooks, pens, glue
10 mins	Story time	Share a story together – discuss shapes, textures, etc.	A range of books
15 mins	Tidy up time Course evaluation	Evaluation form/discussion/help with clearing away	Evaluation forms/flip chart
5 mins	Circle time	Share songs/rhymes, Goodbye song	
10 mins	Where next?	Discussion of ideas, information, advice and guidance discussion, information on other courses/ opportunities for progression	Information, advice and guidance information, information on other courses

Differentiation:

Evaluation:

Actions: