

Family Learning at NIACE - shaping strategy, supporting practice

AUTUMN UPDATE 2009



Family Learning and Museums

NIACE has continued developing the family learning work with the cultural sector. Working with Renaissance North West Hub to pilot the family learning qualification unit 'Principles and Practice' aimed at Museum staff working in family learning in the North West region. This course was run over four days and hosted in four different museums and galleries in the North West, staff from the sector were able to explore some of the key areas of the work with families in their settings including: planning programmes, outcomes for adults and children, identifying key partner organisations and signposting and participants began to gather evidence against the assessment criteria. Feedback was very positive and the course led to further partnership working to develop the family learning further.

Some of the materials and ideas can be found in the Renaissance NW publication 'Developing and supporting family learning in museums and galleries'. A pdf copy of this can be found on:

http://i.renaissancenorthwest.org.uk/CmpDoc/2008/479/0_family-learning.pdf?campaignkw=null

For more information contact: clare.meade@niace.org.uk

Related resources:

Families, Learning and Culture: inspiring families through museums, libraries and archives <http://www.niace.org.uk/development-research/programmes-of-work/families-learning-and-culture-inspiring-families-through-mus>

Families, Learning and Storytelling : Using archives for community cohesion pack, and Resources for libraries: Guidance on how to engage families to read for pleasure are available from www.readingforpleasure.org.uk

National Family Learning Practitioner Qualifications

These qualifications will soon be on the Qualifications and Credit Framework. See the website for up to date information on the framework and developments www.qcda.gov.uk/8150.aspx

Guidance for awarding bodies by Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) will be available soon on <http://www.lluk.org>

NIACE have developed resources to support the qualifications and these will be piloted in September-December 09. Any providers that are interested in taking part in this pilot please contact clare.meade@niace.org.uk

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National Family Learning Network: The Big Impact

Five million families across the country will benefit from a major new project – The Big Impact - run by the National Family Learning Network through its lead partners the Campaign for Learning (CfL), NIACE and ContinYou.



The Big Lottery is funding The Big Impact for the next three years through the BASIS (Building and Sustaining Infrastructure Support) programme. The Big Impact will provide support services across the whole of England for family learning practitioners. This will include support for:

- All voluntary and community sector organisations that are delivering projects funded through the Big Lottery Family Learning Fund and their partners;
- Organisations working with families to deliver children's services;
- Organisations promoting community cohesion through regeneration;
- Organisations using a family approach to health improvement; and
- Local Authorities working in partnership with the voluntary and community sector organisations.

The project will improve the quality of support for family learning practitioners by developing and improving training materials, sharing best practice through development of the NFLN website and introducing a mentoring scheme.

It will also improve skills associated with sustainable funding for voluntary and community sector organisations, as well as support the Network to lobby policy makers and statutory bodies to improve the profile of the sector.

For further information contact Juliette Collier, Head of Family Learning at CfL, on 01675 443 270 or Alison Warren, National Family Learning Network Manager at awarren@cfllearning.org.uk or tel 07798 901913

Skills for Life Support Programme 2009-2010

The Skills for Life Support Programme offers an integrated and cohesive programme to enable quality improvement and increase organisational capacity for self improvement. It builds on the work of other successful programmes such as the Skills for Life Improvement Programme, Move On and Extending the Reach and Improving Quality in Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy (ERIQ).

The Support Programme offers a differentiated model of support to meet your current needs and goals. There is a whole range of support available, including, family literacy, language and numeracy (FLLN) and wider family learning (WFL).

The aim of the family learning support programme is to develop an effective sustainable approach which is tailored to meet local needs and national priorities.

The support will involve developing a network of lead learning practitioners at a regional level to support and be supported by the Development Advisors. There will be a training programme with events to support the strands of FLIF programmes and priorities with grants to support attendance.

For more information contact clare.meade@niace.org.uk

Reading for Pleasure using archive materials and developing work with libraries

Two dissemination events took place in June and July in London and Birmingham where delegates had the chance to try out the new resources for family learning developed by NIACE as part of the DIUS funded Reading for Pleasure initiative. The resources include an activity pack Families, Learning and Storytelling linked to archives and community cohesion and a topic paper Resources for Libraries, Archives and Family Learning which outlines different ways of engaging families with library collections.

Copies of the resources can be downloaded from www.readingforpleasure.org.uk

For more information contact karen.cholmeley@niace.org.uk

Family Learning Impact Funding (FLIF) and support for Family Learning

The support for the first phase of the Family Learning Impact Funding (FLIF) programmes, Extending the Reach & Improving the Quality of FLLN (ERIQ) Phase 3, finished at the end of August. Family Learning Providers have, as usual, risen to the challenge of the requirements of the funding to reach families at risk and fathers. There have been some wonderful examples of innovative work and new partnerships, including working with a community group above a barber's shop to recruit dads; working with women in refuges and many examples of learners who have been helped to turn their lives around through family learning.

The next phase of support for family learning providers falls under the umbrella of the Skills for Life Support Programme. This will build on ERIQ and the work of the regional advisors. The aim is to develop an effective sustainable approach which is tailored to meet local needs and to provide quality support for FLLN, WFL, FLIF providers and their partners. Lead learning practitioners at regional level will take a whole family approach and ensure that "learning as a family" across all areas is integrated at both a strategic and an operational level.

More information is available from

<http://www.cfbt.com>, or contact clare.meade@niace.org.uk

Family Learning impact case studies on the web

Arising out of the report by NIACE for DIUS on the impact of wider family learning, there are now case studies on the web highlighting different aspects of achievement and progression for families taking part in wider family learning. The case studies link to the five generic learning outcomes: new skills; gains in confidence and understanding; improved communication; changed behaviours; and changed relationships with family and community. The case studies provide powerful evidence of the impact of wider family learning.

Full report Providing the Evidence: the impact of wider family learning

<http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/publications/Impact-of-WFL-Case-Studies.pdf>

For more information contact: karen.cholmeley@niace.org.uk and mandy.thomas@niace.org.uk

Family Learning and Children's Centres

Family Learning: a multi agency approach funded by the John Lyon's Charity, is in the final phase. The project has been working with Westminster and Brent to develop best practice model of family learning with embedded parenting skills using a multi agency approach.

As part of the dissemination phase there will be three events. Our first event is on

Friday 6 November 2009

Thistle Marble Arch, London, W1H 7EH

10:00—16:30

Two further dissemination events will be held in 2010.

At the event a resource pack will be launched to support family learning work in Children's Centres and extended services. It will contain

- example session plans
- schemes of work
- activities
- a topic paper
- a copy of the recently published best practice guidelines *Adult Learning and children's centres: making learning accessible for parents and families*.

The guidelines were developed for Westminster to support the child poverty pilot and explore how learning providers for both adults and children can effectively work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for families. The resource is available on the NIACE website:

<http://www.niace.org.uk/development-research/adult-learning-childrens-centres>

For more information contact family.learning@niace.org.uk or to book online go to: <http://www.niace.org.uk/campaigns-events/events/families-learning-and-childrens-centres>

Learning at Home: Learning at School

The final report and practitioner guide from the *Learning at Home: Learning at School* project, funded by the DCSF, are now available from the DCSF website:

Research summary: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RB138.pdf>

Full report: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR138.pdf>

Guide for practitioners:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR139.pdf>

The Local Authorities involved in the project were Isle of Wight; Northamptonshire; City of Nottingham; Rochdale; Sefton; and Tower Hamlets. They have been working in pairs to share the following key aspects of their work:

- Working with families model
- Curriculum workshops
- Educational home visits
- Community arts and literacy
- Family SEAL (Social & Emotional Aspects of Learning)
- Law and citizenship education scheme

The project showed that the direct exchange of local good practice between Local Authorities and schools is worthwhile but time intensive. The transfer must take into account the training and resources that underpin any scheme.

For more information, contact clare.meade@niace.org.uk

Thinking Community

There can be no doubt that learning involving parents/carers and their children is intergenerational learning. However, family learning has developed in parallel with, but not connected to, other types of intergenerational activity. 'Intergenerational practice' is a grassroots response to the growing disconnection between older people and young people and seeks

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to break down barriers and negative stereotypes between the two generations, through joint and reciprocal activities such as mentoring, exploring history, gardening together and community development.

NIACE has produced a discussion document, 'Think Community' that makes the case for a broad and inclusive definition of intergenerational learning, which sees family learning as a type of intergenerational practice and which makes the learning dimension of such activity explicit:

Intergenerational learning arises from activities which purposely involve two or more generations with the aim of generating additional or different benefits to those arising from single generation activities. It generates learning outcomes, but these may or may not be the primary focus of the activity. It involves different generations learning from each other and/or learning together with a tutor or facilitator. Depending on the aims of the activity, it may or may not involve members of the same family.

This definition also opens up possibilities of developing intergenerational learning between different generations as well as those generally involved in intergenerational practice or family learning. For example, family carers of older adults sharing financial skills and knowledge, bringing together the money management skills of the older generation with the IT skills and market understanding of the middle and younger generations; complementing apprentice schemes by bringing together new workers with more experienced workers to learn and share non-work related skills.

'Think Community' includes a typology of intergenerational learning, as well as case study examples demonstrating the impact of different types of activity. It can be downloaded from the NIACE website at <http://www.niace.org.uk/development-research/think-community>.

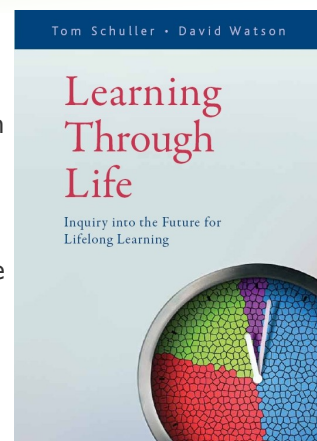
For more information, contact mandy.thomas@niace.org.uk

Inquiry into the Future for Lifelong Learning

Learning Through Life, the definitive report into the future for lifelong learning in the UK will be published on 17 September 2009. Essential reading for everyone with a personal or professional interest in the social and economic trends shaping tomorrow's world, it provides a comprehensive vision for the future of lifelong learning.

For government, employers, civil society, the lifelong learning sector, broadcasters, researchers and the international community the report provides unique insights and recommendations guaranteed to generate debate across all areas of social policy.

Sponsored by NIACE (The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education) this is the main report from the independent Inquiry into the Future for Lifelong Learning and presents:



The book is priced at £11.95—to order call 0870 600 2400 or online at <http://shop.niace.org.uk>

For more information on the Inquiry, see <http://www.lifelonglearninginquiry.org.uk>

Family Impact Findings— Research Database

www.familyimpactfindings.org.uk

Go online to read, discuss, debate and make connections with family learning practitioners and researchers.

We are always on the lookout for new material for the database. If you have any research or evaluations that you would like to include, you can find details of how to submit articles on the website or by contacting us at familylearning@niace.org.uk

From 'Think Family' to the 'Learning Family'

The Government urges us to "Think Family" to ensure that family needs are viewed holistically and not limited by service and/or professional boundaries.

NIACE is promoting a greater understanding of the concept of the learning family and advocating for policy changes to promote and sustain it. In a learning family, every member is a lifelong learner in their own right but where learning is shared and encouraged across generations, attitudes to learning change and a new culture of aspiration is born. This is crucial to building resilience in families and enabling social mobility, in creating community well-being, economic prosperity and social cohesion.

For further details see: <http://www.niace.org.uk/sites/default/files/Learning-Family-briefing.pdf#>

Links with Family Learning in Uganda

In May, two staff members from the NIACE family learning team visited the Wasako district near Kampala, Uganda. They worked with Project Hope with Community Parents Concern and Kabubbu Community Library to develop and deliver family learning CPD training with community facilitators. The resilience and ingenuity of the facilitators and the families they work with was tremendous. Many of the problems faced by families – low wages, unemployment, poor transport, family fragmentation—are very similar to those faced by many families in the UK.

The visit fell into four interlinked parts: attending family learning sessions facilitated by community family learning facilitators for observation and feedback; visits to small enterprises to identify transferable skills needed for employment; facilitator training; and meetings with other organisations delivering family learning.

For more information contact: clare.meade@niace.org.uk and karen.cholmeley@niace.org.uk

Policy Roundup:

Families in Britain: the impact of changing family structures

Policy Exchange (April 2009)

<http://www.policyexchange.org.uk/publications/publication.cgi?id=112>

Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum: Final report

DCSF (April 2009)

http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/Primary_curriculum_Report.pdf

A new approach to English for Speakers of Other Languages

BIS, May 2009

<http://www.dius.gov.uk/esol>

Child Poverty Bill

DWP (June 2009)

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/childpoverty.html>

Your Child, Your Schools, Our Future: Building a 21st century schools system

DCSF (June 2009)

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/21stcenturyschoolssystem/?CID>

The Impact of Integrated Services on Children and their Families in Sure Start Children's Centres

Ofsted report (July 2009)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/The-impact-of-integrated-services-on-children-and-their-families-in-Sure-Start-children-s-centres>

Ofsted: Family learning report (July 2009)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Publications-and-research/Browse-all-by/Documents-by-type/Thematic-reports/Family-learning>

Common Inspection Framework for Further Education and Skills

Ofsted (July 2009)

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance/Browse-all-by/Other/General/Common-inspection-framework-for-further-education-and-skills-2009>

Forthcoming Events:

Skills for Life Support Programme – Family Learning

The following events have been confirmed. Details of further events will be disseminated shortly.

Skills for Life Support Programme (SfLSP) Family Learning Events coming up in November/December:

Please go to the website <http://www.niace.org.uk/skills-for-life-support-programme> to see a list of all SfLSP events and to book on-line.

Regional family numeracy training	10/11/2009	London
Family Numeracy Practitioners Champion events	11/11/2009	Portsmouth
Working with Families at Risk, principles & practice of family learning 1 day course	12/11/2009	Nottingham
National Family Learning Train the Trainer course	17/11/2009	Birmingham
Digital Families Briefings (formerly SIP/Family ICT)	18/11/2009	West Midlands
FLIF Wider Family Learning support activities	18/11/2009	West Midlands
Good practice sharing seminars	19/11/2009	Sheffield
Training for Family Numeracy Learner Champions	20/11/2009	Watford
Digital Families Briefings (formerly SIP/Family ICT)	24/11/2009	Taunton
FLIF Wider Family Learning support activities	24/11/2009	Taunton
Working with Families at Risk	25/11/2009	Newcastle
Skills for Life tutor conversion course to Family Learning	30/11/2009	Leicester
Digital Families Briefings (formerly SIP/Family ICT)	01/12/2009	North East
Working with Families at Risk, principles & practice of family learning 2 day course	03/12/2009	Reading Town Hall
Digital Families Briefings (formerly SIP/Family ICT)	07/12/2009	North West
Family Numeracy Practitioners Champion events	09/12/2009	East of England
Good practice sharing seminars	15/12/2009	South