

Family Learning at NIACE - shaping strategy, supporting practice

SPRING UPDATE 2009



Family Learning and Museums

NIACE and Museums in the North West Renaissance Hub are working together to pilot contextualised family learning training, based on the Principles and Practice of Family Learning Unit from the new family learning qualifications. These units were developed by NIACE on behalf of the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) and the Sector Skills Council, Lifelong Learning UK (LLUK) and they will soon be available on the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). They aim to meet the needs of all those working with families in a learning context, including managers, tutors and support staff.

The training is being run over four days in March 2009 with the Museum's staff from the NW region and will enable staff 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.

This partnership work builds on the evaluation of family learning programmes in museums in the North West undertaken by NIACE in 2007-08 and funded by Renaissance, and the Families Learning and Culture publication commissioned by The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) 2008 to support the development of effective family learning provision in museums, libraries and archives.

See the [families learning and culture](#) publication here

Included in this update

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Arty Picnics

© Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester

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

Update on the new National Family Learning Practitioner Qualifications

These qualifications will shortly be on the Qualifications and Credit Framework. Further information on the awarding bodies offering these qualifications will be available soon and will be on the NIACE website at www.niace.org.uk/development-and-research/programmes-of-work/family-learning

For more information on the qualifications, contact penny.lamb@niace.org.uk

Family Learning Impact Funding (FLIF) update

Extending the Reach & Improving the Quality of FLLN (ERIQ) Phase 3

The Alliance for Lifelong Learning (Tribal and NIACE) has been commissioned by the Learning & Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) to take this work forward. In particular development and support is being provided with Numeracy, Financial Capability, School Information for Parents and Wider Family Learning.

Numeracy

The aim of this strand is to build the capacity of the workforce, to improve the range and flexibility of the learning offered and to increase the number of mothers, fathers and carers achieving qualifications and progressing. For further information contact Jo.downes@btinternet.com

Financial Capability

This strand of work involves supporting practitioners with the development and roll out of financial capability FLIF programmes through training and materials. Two events for managers and practitioners are being run one in York on 12th February and one in London on 3rd March as well as further support for local authorities as required. For further information contact clare.meade@niace.org.uk or ycasswell@leics.gov.uk

Wider Family Learning

This strand is supporting practitioners with the further development of Wider Family Learning FLIF programmes through training and support materials. Briefing papers on the key policy contexts (Art and Culture, Community Cohesion, Sustainable Development and Health and Wellbeing) are being consulted on and will be available on the [skills for families website](http://skillsforfamilies.excellence.qia.org.uk/) (<http://skillsforfamilies.excellence.qia.org.uk/>). Three events are planned. The first was held in Manchester on 5th February, the others are in Nottingham on 27th February and Taunton on 13th March. For further information contact karen.cholmeley@niace.org.uk

Schools Information for Parents

Building on the initial set of pilots in Phase 2, this strand will offer further opportunities for local authorities to be involved in the development of transition programmes for mothers, fathers and carers. For further information contact Sue Dixon - sedixon@olcote.fsnet.co.uk

The [Skills for Families Advisers](http://skillsforfamilies.excellence.qia.org.uk/images/stories/pdfs/map_04_lowres.pdf) facilitate regional network and cluster meetings, offer one-to-one support to FLLN providers, promote workforce development, and broker partnership meetings. Some members of the Sff Adviser team also offer specialist support with each of the ERIQ strands and with the collection and use of data. Contact details for the team can be found at: http://skillsforfamilies.excellence.qia.org.uk/images/stories/pdfs/map_04_lowres.pdf

Working with Gypsy/Traveller families

This new publication forms part of NIACE's Lifelines series. It provides an insight into working with one of the most marginalised groups in society to improve their literacy skills. It also shares successful family learning models and projects that benefit the whole family. The book describes how Traveller families in Derbyshire engaged in family learning activities which improved the skills of the adults, developed the language and literacy skills of the children, and enabled the parents to understand better how they could support their children. Its author, Emma Hrubciak of Read On-Write Away! (ROWA!), hopes that the book will inspire others to see a way that they too can work with the Gypsy and Traveller communities in their area. For more information contact mandy.thomas@niace.org.uk

Working with Gypsy/Traveller families: lifelines 25 is available from the NIACE bookshop at
<http://shop.niace.org.uk/wor king-with-travellers.html>

The Family Impact Findings database is now LIVE

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 evaluation that you would like to include, details of how to submit articles can be found on the website, or contact us at familylearning@niace.org.uk

Making links at the NIACE/FLLAG research conference

On 22/23 January, nearly 100 family learning practitioners, managers, researchers and their colleagues from museums, libraries and archives, got together at the Holiday Inn in Sheffield. They explored a diverse range of themes around families and learning, including impacts, national agendas, linking theory and policy, and social engineering. Presentations at this, the second NIACE/FLLAG (Family Learning Local Authority Group) research conference, included the launch of a new publication on working with Gypsy/Traveller families and a new online database of family learning practitioner research, 'Family Impact Findings'. Delegates were inspired by ideas for using family stories to change communities. They identified and discussed links between family learning providers and museums, galleries, libraries, archives, children's centres and higher education.

Papers and presentations from the conference can be downloaded from

<http://www.niace.org.uk/development-research/families-learning-impact-conference>

Making the Connection—Mental Health and Family Learning

Practitioners from both family learning and mental health services have worked together to contribute to the development and piloting of a resource pack which gives information and ideas for collaborative working.

The initial resource pack was developed and piloted in 2007 and the final pack has now been published. This pack is for both mental health and family learning practitioners and organisations to raise awareness of the issues and provide guidelines for good practice. The pack contains 18 information cards including information on mental health, family learning, supporting learners with mental health difficulties, joint working, case studies, background information and useful contacts as well as two family learning activities.

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

You can download
the pack from our
website

[Making the
Connection—Mental
Health and Family
Learning Pack](#)

Families, learning and storytelling: using archives for community cohesion

As part of the Reading for Pleasure programme, NIACE has been commissioned by DIUS to develop a resource pack which sets the context for developing family learning programmes using archive collections linked to storytelling and community cohesion. Archives are information as narrative and as such provide a rich learning resource for engaging adults and children in reading for pleasure, both paper-based and using ICT.

The pack shows how using archives for family learning can provide opportunities to promote reading through non-fiction texts which draw on the wealth of stories in the collections. These stories together with families' own stories can be used to support community cohesion.

The resource pack will be launched at the London Metropolitan Archives on 19th March 2009. Further details from Karen Cholmeley

The pack can be used as part of the partnership and curriculum planning process and includes example schemes of work, case studies and links to resources.

The materials are relevant to managers, staff, tutors and teachers interested in developing family learning programmes with archives.

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

Family Learning: a multi agency approach

This three year project, funded through the John Lyons Charity, has enabled NIACE Family Learning to work in partnership with Westminster in the first year and Brent in the second year to develop a best practice programme of linked parenting skills and wider family learning in Children's Centres using a multi-agency approach.



The project has worked with partners in Westminster and Brent adult and children's services to:

- ensure the programmes are embedded in the strategic approach to work with parents/carers and family learning
- develop a model of multi-agency working for parenting and family learning in Children's Centres
- ensure quality in relation to both children and adults
- develop and pilot learning materials for the programme
- develop and deliver taster workshops and short programmes.

The project has built on and strengthened multi-agency partnerships through shared training, development and delivery of programmes.

The findings from the project will be disseminated in the next year through local and national events and a family learning topic paper.

The project has:

- created a focus for developing a city wide approach to family learning
- brought partners together to ensure a more integrated provision
- made links between parenting and family learning
- contributed to the Westminster wide parenting strategy

"It has been very valuable to have someone driving and leading this work; we wouldn't have taken it forward at this stage without this impetus."

(Jayne Vertkin- Children's Centre Development Team Westminster)



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

Learning at Home: Learning at School

The final report from this two year action research project funded by the DCSF will soon be available. NIACE has been working in partnership with ECOTEC Research and Consulting Ltd and Professor John Bastiani on the project, working with six local authorities. The Local Authorities involved in the project are Isle of Wight; Northamptonshire; City of Nottingham; Rochdale; Sefton; and Tower Hamlets, and they have been working in pairs to share key aspects of their work:

- Working with families model
- Curriculum workshops
- Educational home visits
- Community arts and literacy
- Family SEAL
- Law and citizenship education scheme

For more information
and the project
newsletter, go to
[www.learning-
hs.org.uk/partners.asp](http://www.learning-
hs.org.uk/partners.asp)

The project team recently facilitated a workshop, *Local Linking: working across social and geographical boundaries to engage parents and families: Lessons learned from a national action research project*, as part of the NIACE conference Families, Learning and Impact in January 2009. Key points raised by workshop participants will be used to inform the report.

Forthcoming Events:

Extending the reach and improving the quality of Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy Family Learning Impact Funding: Financial Capability and Wider Family Learning

Regional Training Events

Family Learning Impact Funding: Financial Capability
Tuesday 3 March 2009, London

Family Learning Impact Funding: Wider Family Learning
Friday 27 February 2009, Nottingham
Friday 13 March 2009, Taunton

Attendance is free (includes lunch, tea/coffee).

For more information, or to book a place,
please contact gurjit.kaur@niaceorg.uk
tel 0116 204 2833

Changing lives through learning—How can we work together to tackle the inequality gap

23 & 24 March 2009 Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon

For a full programme and conference overview, visit www.continyou.org.uk/conference2009

Families for our Times

National Family Learning Network Conference

23rd March 2009, QEII Conference Centre, London, visit <http://www.campaign-for-learning.org.uk/familylearningnetwork/Conf%20Reports/reports.asp>

Step Training events Booking is through Yasmin.patel@tribalgroup.co.uk

25/02/09 Whipper-In Hotel, Rutland, East Mids

10/03/09 Oak Tree Conference Centre, Coventry, West Midlands

12/03/09 Bailbrook House, Bath, South West

17/03/09 Brooklands Hotel, Barnsley, South Yorkshire

19/03/09 St Catherine's Education and Training Centre, Crawley, West Sussex

23/03/09 The Swallow Hotel Churchgate, Harlow, East of England

27/03/09 Brighthouse Adult Learning Centre, Brighthouse, Calderdale, Yorkshire

31/03/09 CREA Centre, Penrith, Cumbria, North West

Parents Matter International Conference

26th/27th March 2009, Holborn Bars, 138-142 Holborn, London EC1N 2NQ

For further information and to register for the conference please go to the web link www.longviewuk.com/pages/escape.shtml where full information is supplied.

Skills for Families Conference

Save the date: 21st May 2009 : more details available shortly

Policy Roundup

New Opportunities White Paper: aspirations and attainment in deprived communities

<http://www.hmg.gov.uk/newopportunities.aspx>

Aspirations and attainment in deprived communities

A joint project between the Social Exclusion Task Force, DCSF and CLG

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/social_exclusion_task_force/short_studies/aspirations.aspx

21st Century Schools, A world class education for every child

Department of Children, Schools, and Families (2008) Available from:

<http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/DCSF-01044-2008.pdf>

The Play Strategy

Department of Children, Schools, and Families (2008) . Available from:

http://publications.dcsf.gov.uk/eOrderingDownload/The_Play_Strategy.pdf

National Parenting Toolkit

More information available for the parenting academy website

http://www.parentingacademy.org/parentserv_commstoolkit.aspx

Ending Child Poverty Consultation

The Government is now consulting on legislative proposals prior to the introduction of a child poverty Bill in 2009. Closing Date 11 March 2009

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/index.cfm?action=consultationDetails&consultationId=1590&external=no&menu=1>