

# Family Learning

## Glasgow's Improvement Challenge

### PROGRAMME DESCRIPTOR: Families Connect

The Families Connect programme provides a series of activities, techniques and games that parents and carers can practice with their children in order to consider how they can introduce these into their own home environments. The programme recognises the role parents play in the education of their children and the value of creating a home environment that is conducive to learning.

#### Curricular Area – Literacy, Numeracy, Health & Wellbeing

It focuses on three key areas of development:

Social and emotional development (week 1, 2 & 3)

Literacy and language development (week 4 & 5)

Numeracy and mathematics (week 6 & 7)

Families Connect uses play as the vehicle for learning and interaction with parents and between parents and their children.

#### Target Audience



- Early Years
  - Early Primary
- \*Parents/Carers of children aged 4-6 years

#### Resources:



- **Training** - Families Connect facilitator training is a two day course requiring two staff from each setting to attend, delegates can include; Teacher, Lead Practitioners of Attainment, Child Development Officer, Family Support Worker, Support for Learning staff etc.
- **Staff** – Two facilitators are required to deliver the programme at all times
- **Time** – The programme is delivered over 8 weeks; 8 x 2 hours workshops
- **Material** – Training manual (supplied by Save the Children)  
Resource box (supplied by Save the Children)
- **Budget** – Small budget for a light family meal/snack e.g. sandwiches, soup, fruit etc. and small items of stationery/equipment. Approx. £150
- **Venue** – This programme can be delivered in any setting e.g. nursery, school, community facility etc. as long as a quiet room/space is available within the venue that accommodates a maximum of 12 parents/carers and 12 children participating in the workshops.

#### Planned Outcomes:



##### Intended outcomes for children:

- Improvements in child's softer skills in regards to education and motivation to learn
- Improvements in child's social and emotional skills
- Improvements in child's communication skills
- Improvements in child's interest in and understanding of literacy and numeracy

##### Intended outcomes for parents:

- Improvements in parent/child communication
- Increase in understanding and empathy for their child's learning
- Increase in parental motivation to support their child's learning
- Increase in parent's confidence in supporting their child's learning
- Increase in communication between parents and school

##### Intended outcomes for schools:

- Increase in parental engagement in the school
- Strengthening of relationships between the school and parents

#### Partners:



- Save the Children
- Glasgow Life Family Learning Team

#### Aims & Objectives:



- Providing activities that parents/carers and children can do together to stimulate the home learning environment
- Provide parents with information, strategies and techniques that improve their knowledge of how they can support their child's learning
- Model how to approach, engage and work with families (parental engagement)
- Create opportunities for schools and parents to build relationships

#### Method:



- Families Connect is designed for parents and carers with at least one child who is aged between four to six years old. Families attend a series of two-hour workshops delivered in school/nursery over eight weeks with timings of the workshops arranged to suit parents' needs. Parents attend some elements of the workshop by themselves and some with their children. Workshop themes are;

Week 1: Focus on Feelings  
Week 2: The Importance of Praise  
Week 3: The Importance of Listening  
Week 4: Book Talk  
Week 5: Beyond the Page  
Week 6: The Importance of Counting  
Week 7: Number Talk  
Week 8: Celebration and Evaluation

#### Monitoring and Evaluation

- Save the Children have incorporated a robust monitoring, evaluation and quality assurance process within the Families Connect programme. This process is covered in the 2 day training and a toolkit of all relevant documentation is provided.

#### Adaptations:

- A compressed six week programme of Families Connect is available to suit online delivery of the programme, retaining an emphasis on social and emotional development and wellbeing alongside literacy in the context of the COVID -19 crisis and recovery. The six weeks programme covers;

Week 1: Welcome and Play  
Week 2: Feelings  
Week 3: Praise and listening  
Week 4: Book Talk and Storytelling  
Week 5: Counting  
Week 6: Number Talk

- Save the Children produced a COVID-19 Family Resource Pack to support families with a range of family learning activities all themed on Families Connect listed above. You can access a copy of this pack here ([insert link](#))

#### Useful Links:

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFe2Yxh4uPI>

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/what-we-do/uk-work/in-schools/families-connect>

