

Family Learning Team Resource Pack

'Families Together: Numeracy' Course Descriptor

Topic: 6 x Family Learning Numeracy Workshops for P1-2.

Aim: To support families to be better able to support their child's numeracy learning and development.

Intended Outcomes:

- Parents/carers report a better understanding of school learning approaches and their role in supporting their child's learning and development
- Parents/carers develop improved skills which support family numeracy development
- Increased parental involvement in children's learning at home and in the community
- Relationships between parents/carers, children and school staff are strengthened, thereby reinforcing family bonds, building on the home/school relationship and reducing social isolation
- Parents/carers continue to develop their skills through links offered with further learning or family activity within the school or community.

Overview:

The six-week programme provides an opportunity for parents and carers to get to know each other over coffee and take part in discussions and activities around the theme of the week, for example time, pattern and number, linked with the Curriculum for Excellence Early Level Numeracy Experiences and Outcomes. The children then join their parent/carer, spending quality time together taking part in fun activities, which reinforce the weekly theme using simple ideas, techniques and games that can be continued together at home. The families are also given a weekly 'top tip' to try together at home. Although there are six sessions, the programme is flexible in that each session covers a theme, so they can also be delivered as 'stand-alone' workshops.

Delivery:

Who will participate?

The programme is designed for P1-2 families although some pre-entry or P3 families could also benefit. A group of around 10 families works well per session. Some parents/carers will need to bring their pre-school children; this should be checked beforehand and considered during planning. A universal invitation to all P1 families could be offered or a targeted approach could also work well with particular families being invited to take part. Their children could design an invitation for their parent/carer in class.

Family Learning Team

Resource Pack

'Families Together: Numeracy' Course Descriptor continued

Who will deliver?

The main facilitator will need an average of two hours per week to prepare and another half day to deliver. There will be additional time needed to promote the programme through distributing flyers and crucially, speaking to families individually to encourage them along. Reminder phone calls and texts are also beneficial. The facilitator would benefit from additional support during the session as children will need to be collected from class, parents/carers will need to be greeted and families supported with the activity, ideally from a member of staff who has experience of the numeracy curriculum.

When will it be delivered?

Family Learning has previously worked well when delivered from 1.30-2.55pm. Parents agreed on this time, saying: 'It's a good time of day, I can get my jobs done first and I get time with my son on his own without my other kids'.

The first 30 minutes is parent/carer time then the children are collected from class to take part in the themed family learning. The children are returned to class before 3pm to get ready for home. The programme is flexible however and other options could be adopted.

Where will it be delivered?

Delivery within school offers the benefit of families getting to know school staff and feeling more confident within the school setting. However the programme could be delivered within a community setting such as the local library or community centre. This would provide options for delivery after school or during holidays and support increased local integration.

Main requirements are:

- An accessible welcoming space for parents/carers to enjoy discussion over coffee
- An additional open space for some sessions to support active games
- Wi-Fi for one session
- Some toys for pre-school children to play with during parent time.

Progression:

The programme could be utilised as a method of initial parental engagement and could offer a starting point for continued family learning opportunities, either within or outwith the school. As an example, Glasgow Life offer many free family, child and adult literacy and numeracy based programmes within our libraries, museums and local communities – more detail can be found here:

<http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/learning-museums/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/libraries/childreynyoung/read4life/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/communities/adults/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/communities/childreynyoungpeopleandfamilies/Pages/default.aspx>

Family Learning Team

Resource Pack

'Families Together: Numeracy' Course Descriptor continued

Glasgow Libraries also offer 'Count Me In' resources which support parents and carers to develop young children's numeracy skills. They include a variety of fun games, activity sheets and stories which schools can borrow for families to play and learn key mathematical skills together. For more information please contact your Family Learning officer or email margaret.houston@glasgowlife.org.uk.

Curriculum for Excellence Links:

The activities in the pack are aligned to the Curriculum for Excellence. Each session is coded with the most relevant links although these are not exhaustive. Through supporting parents to support their children, Families Together: Numeracy helps provide the foundations for children to develop their skills as set out in the Early Level Outcomes for Numeracy, particularly around the theme of Money, Number and Measure. Each session covers particular experiences and outcomes, for example Session Two covers:

- I am developing a sense of size and amount by observing, exploring, using and communicating with others about things in the world around me.
MNU 0-01
- I have explored numbers, understanding that they represent quantities, and I can use them to count, create sequences and describe order.
MNU 0-02a
- I use practical materials and can 'count on and back' to help me to understand addition and subtraction, recording my ideas and solutions in different ways.
MNU 0-03a

How Good is Our School 4

The programme has been designed with the Quality Indicators for How Good is Our School 4 embedded into its planning, implementation and evaluation. It is designed to contribute to Raising Attainment and Achievement (Quality Indicator 3.2) by offering an example of highly effective Family Learning (Quality Indicator 2.5). It can provide both universal and targeted creative family learning as well as opportunities for progression. It provides an Early Intervention and Prevention approach in that facilitators will nurture a learning environment, which will build a supportive relationship with the participating families. The programme could also be used to support Transitions (Quality Indicator 2.6) as it could be planned to target nursery families as they move into P1. The programme incorporates a range of evaluation approaches to ensure needs are being met, impacts are recorded and quality is delivered (Quality Indicator 1.1).

We hope this programme will be one of a range of resources that can be utilised within Glasgow's Improvement Challenge to support achieving equity in educational outcomes for Glasgow's children.