 



**Sharing Stories**

**Sharing Stories Project Rationale**

We all know that supporting positive relationships with families is a key element of working within Early Years settings, and research also shows that involving parents/carers by engaging them in family learning is a huge factor in successful relationship building and goes someway to alleviating the poverty related attainment gap.

Covid – 19 presented massive challenges; children missed out on a significant portion of their time in nursery, and the effects are still being felt. Over the last two years the family learning team have built on positive nursery and family feeback by extending family learning programmes into nurseries. Sharing Stories is a family learning programme, developed by Glasgow Life and partners, that enables parent/carers to access and connect with research on early brain and literacy development and empowers them to better support their child’s early learning and development.

Below is a brief outline of the aims, intended outcomes and method.

**Aim:**

* To increase levels of meaningful family engagement with pre-school families around early literacy and brain development

**Intended Outcomes:**

* Almost all relationships between parents/carers, children and nursery staff are strengthened, thereby reinforcing family bonds and building on the home/nursery relationship.
* Almost all participants experience increased parental involvement in their child’s learning at home and in the community
* Almost all parents experience increased interest in and understanding of the research on early brain and literacy development and their role in supporting this
* Almost all children display increased motivation/enjoyment participating in play based learning activities with their parent or carer
* Almost all children show improvements in communication skills
* A few parents/carers access further learning and support.

**Method:**

Dedicated members of nursery staff link with families over a six-week programme providing weekly activities and building knowledge around the importance of sharing stories. Ideally, the staff member will link with each family member individually to promote the programme and discuss the best way of communicating regularly, e.g. phone call, seesaw, nursery gates or family learning groups. The staff member will spend time engaging with parent/carers to stimulate interest in the programme through nursery gates engagement, 1:1 chats, phone calls and text messages. Coffee and chat time could be used to develop parent/carers’ understanding of the importance of family learning, before signing up to the Sharing Stories programme. The programme will be delivered to parent/carers within the nursery setting, over a 6-week period, when parent/carers will learn about early brain and literacy development on a week by week basis. After each weekly session, parent/carers will be given resources to use and enjoy at home with their children. To support evidencing and evaluation of the programme, parents will be encouraged to take individual photos of the children enjoying the sharing stories activities at home.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Nurseries will be linked with a Family Learning Officer who can provide ongoing support in parental engagement and recording parent/carers’ and children’s progress. A planning, monitoring and evaluation toolkit is available from the Family Learning team and specific Sharing Stories evaluation templates will be provided.