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# Family Learning in England

AGENDA FOR FAMILY LEARNING SEMINAR  
NORTHERN IRELAND IMPACT FORUM & EPALE

7 March 2018 - NICVA

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 LEARNING AND  
WORK INSTITUTE

Forum for Adult Learning  ECORYS 

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LEARNING AND WORK INSTITUTE

 Scotland's Learning Partnership



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

# Learning and Work Institute

- L&W is an independent policy and research organisation dedicated to promoting lifelong learning, full employment and inclusion.
- We managed the Independent Inquiry into Family Learning in England and Wales [“Family Learning Works”](#)
- On behalf of Department for Education, we manage the National Family Learning Forum (NFL) and FLLAG



# What is family learning?

- Encourages adults to support children's learning
- Helps adults understand their role in their children's learning.
- Raises expectations and aspirations of children and adults.
- Helps break cycles of intergenerational deprivation.





**What is family learning?**

'Family learning' refers to any learning activity that involves both children and adult family members, where learning outcomes are intended for both, and that contributes to a culture of learning in the family.

# Family Learning

# Adult Skills

- Maths and English: 49% adults below level of numeracy expected for 11 year old (Entry level 3): for literacy it is 15%
- Digital: 11.5m people in UK lack basic digital skills
- Informal engagement activities to formal, accredited learning programmes
- Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy (FLLN) programmes
- Wider Family Learning (WFL) programmes which encourage adults to engage with their children in learning.
- “Good parenting skills”, “Learning and Playing” and “Creativity and Games”, Family reading, language, maths and parenting programmes

## Family Learning Impact Survey (December 2015) Results

Learner has got a job since attending Family Learning course or made progress in an existing role.



55%

Literacy and Numeracy has improved (learner reads a wider range of material, has an improved ability to write more accurately and/or knowledge of maths has improved)



95%

Learner is more confident in their own abilities and more confident to support their child with their learning/homework.



100%

Learner has made new friends since attending a Family Learning course.



95%

Learner has started voluntary work or become more involved with school/children's centre/community group.



65%

Family Learning has had a positive effect on your family's physical or emotional wellbeing (healthier eating habits, more exercise, getting out more as a family, reduced stress levels).



85%

# The Attainment Gap

- Only 36.8 per cent of pupils from poorer backgrounds achieve an A\*–C grade in English and maths GCSE, compared with 63 per cent for all other pupils: a 26.2 percentage point gap
- [Family Learning Works](#) found that Family Learning can increase children's attainment by as much as 15 percentage point for children from disadvantaged families

# Benefits - Children

- Maintain, improve or rebuild father/mother– child relationships and sibling relationships
- Increase their confidence
- Improve early learning
- Support to learn and achieve at school
- Raise aspirations



# Family Learning benefits schools

- Increased attendance at parents' evenings
- Increased parental willingness to support the school
- Increased parental involvement in school life
- Improved understanding amongst parents/ carers about how to manage children's behaviour
- Increased parental responsibility
- Positive impact on children's behaviour in the classroom (Ofsted).
- Higher educational aspirations amongst parents/carers and their children
- Narrows the gap between lowest and highest achievers.

# Policy

- Department for Education priorities: Social Mobility, Technical education, Apprenticeships, Learning throughout Adult Life, Children's attainment
- No National Family Learning Policy

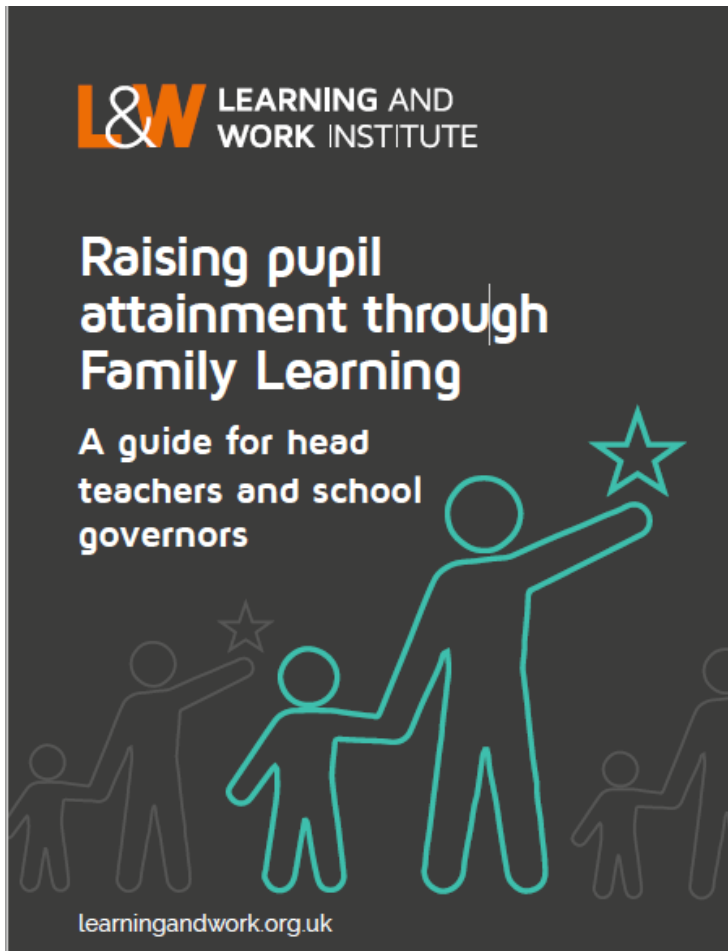
# Family Learning - Pupil Premium

- [Family Learning Works](#), recommended that all schools should include family learning programmes to increase children's levels of attainment at school

# Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG)

- Treorchy Primary School  
(Family Learning Room)
- Raise expectations of adults for themselves and for their children
- Families support children at home

# Guide to use of Pupil Premium



- Supports head teachers and school governors to invest Pupil Premium in Family Learning programmes
- Provides evidence of the impact of Family Learning on disadvantaged pupils and their families
- includes the information to invest Pupil Premium funding to improve outcomes for children

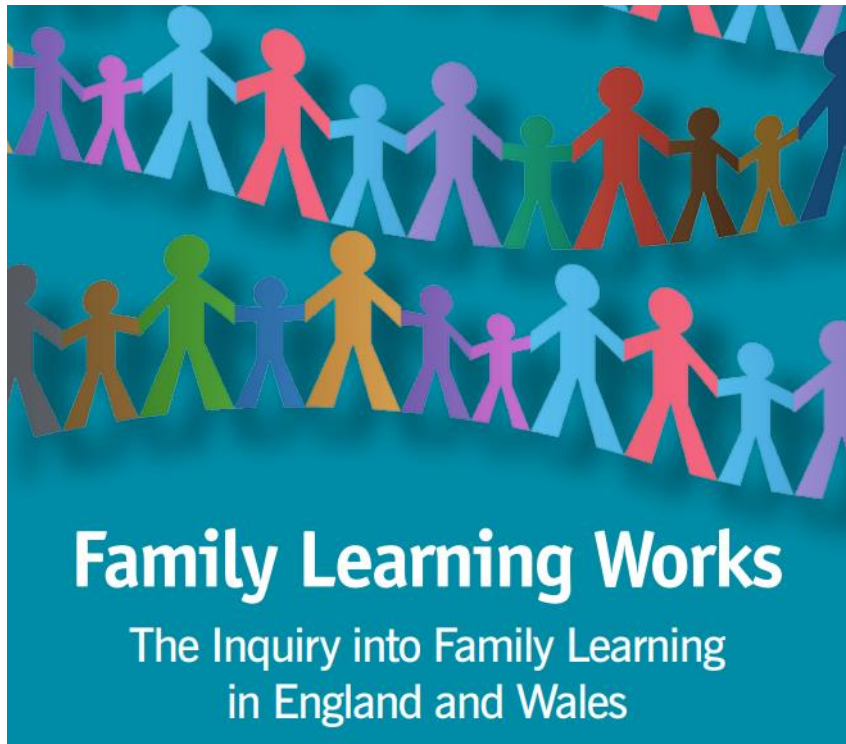
# Social Mobility

- [Unlocking Talent, Fulfilling Potential DfE December 2017](#)
- A plan for improving social mobility through education
- Ambition 1: Close the 'word gap' in the early years
- Ambition 2: Close the attainment gap in school while continuing to raise standards for all
- Ambition 3: High quality post-16 education choices for all young people
- Ambition 4: Everyone achieving their potential in rewarding careers
- Opportunity Areas – bringing together our approach to tackle entrenched disadvantage

# Policy Priorities - Children's Attainment

- Home learning Environment (HLE)
- Aside from maternal education, HLE is the single biggest influence on a child's vocabulary at age 3
- Quality of HLE is lower in disadvantaged families
- Gap in time spent on key activities (e.g. reading to children is ) has widened for low and high educated parents since the 1970s, when there was no appreciable gap

# L&W Policy



“Family learning can close the attainment gap and help end the ‘life-chance lottery’ by creating a culture of aspiration in every family.”



# National Family Learning Forum and FFLAG

## Resources:

[https://padlet.com/usan\\_easton1/family\\_learning](https://padlet.com/usan_easton1/family_learning)

EU UK Coordinator FL programme 2017 - 2019

Family Learning Forum (NFLF) and FFLAG (Family Learning Local Authority Group)

**LEARNER STORIES**    **CASE STUDIES**    **REPORTS**

**Leeds learner story**  
I had never read to my son until I attended the 'Story Sacks' and 'Play and Language' courses."

**Employment & Skills**  
Case Study  
Team: Projects & Programmes    Ward: Crossgates

**Strengthening Families - Blackburn and**  
Strengthening families is a nationally recognised evidence based parenting programme for parents/caregivers and young people aged 10 to 14 years.

**Family Learning Works**  
The Inquiry into Family Learning in England and Wales

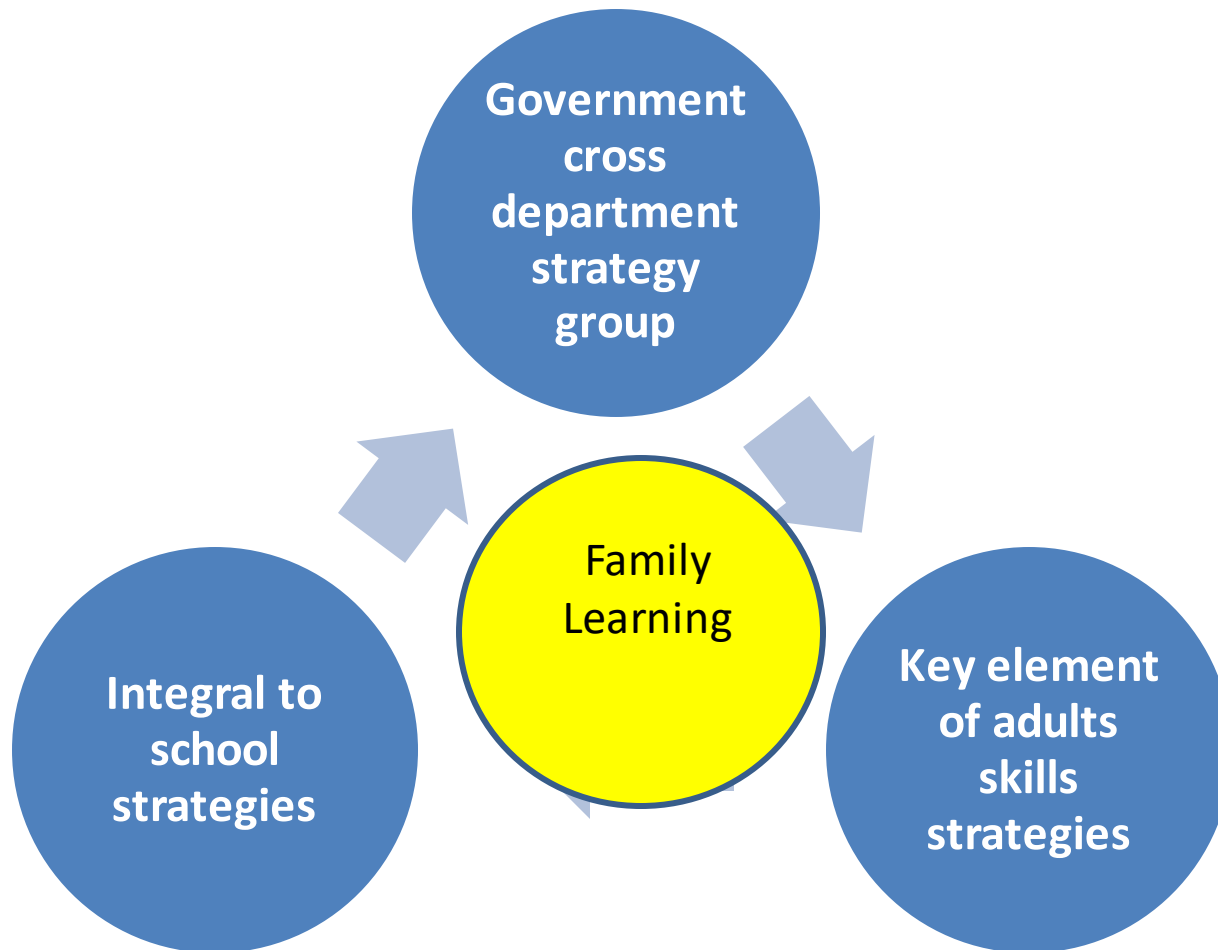
**niace\_family\_learning\_report**  
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Confident Parent Confident

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# Priorities Moving Forward – supporting social mobility



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