

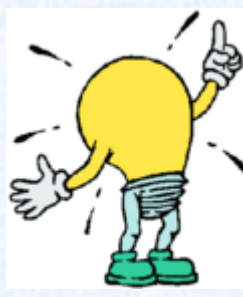


In the West Partnership: Family Learning and Parental Engagement

Families Connect

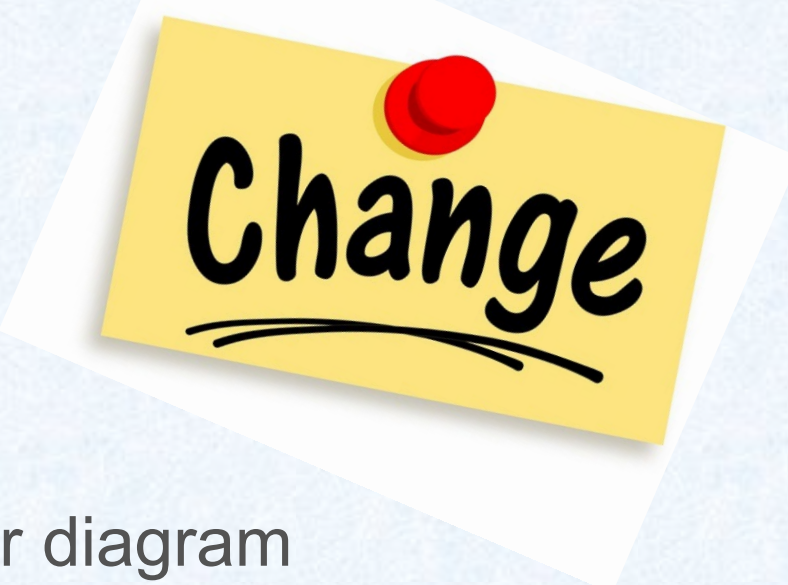
- Aims:
- To stimulate the Home Learning Environment, including increasing the confidence and skills of parents and carers and enhancing the activities they do together with their knowledge of how they support learning;
  - To model how to approach, engage and work with families;
  - To create opportunities for schools and parents to build relationships.

Method

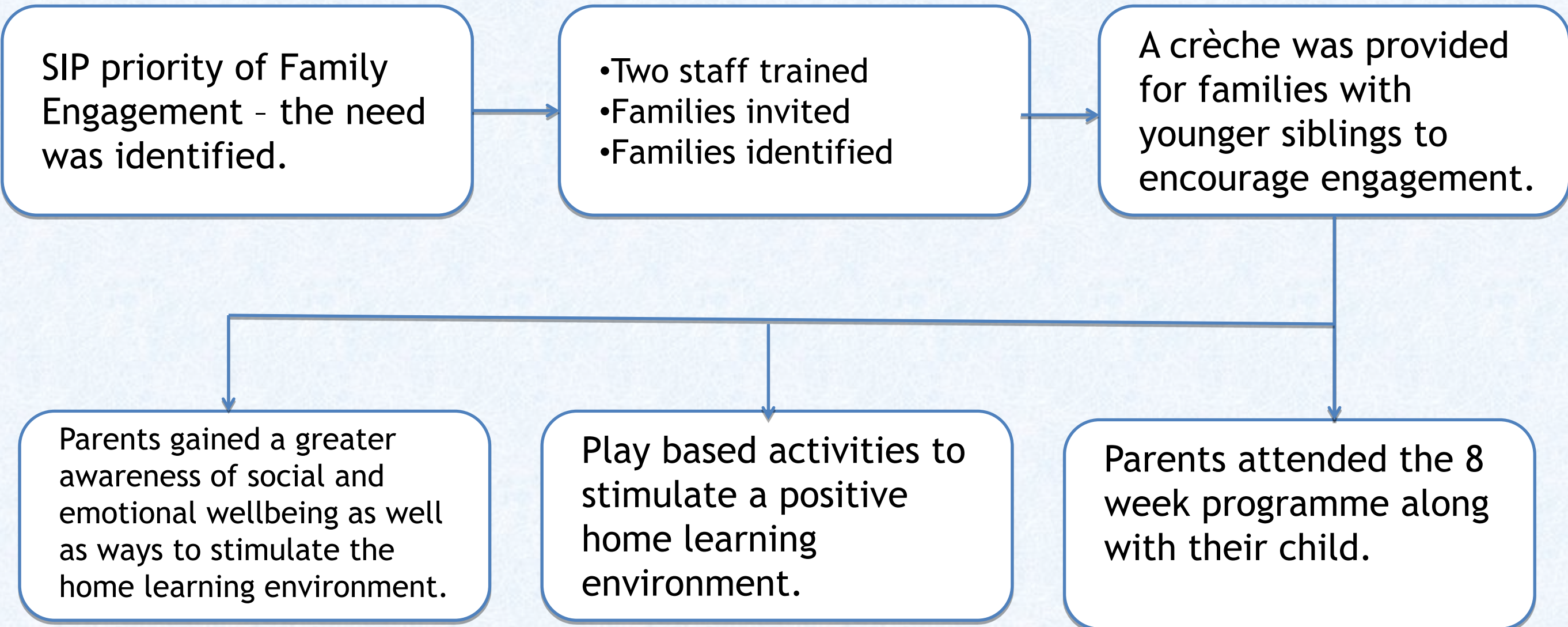


Two members of teaching staff undertook a two day training course by Save the Children in order to deliver the Families Connect Programme. Save the Children provided some resources funding to be able to run the programme which was aimed at Primary 2 families. Parents were recruited through a coffee morning inviting to them to find out more about the programme. The families who signed up were compared to our school tracking and SIMD Data to decide who would be granted a place. Those who were given a place to take part in the pilot, committed to the eight week programme for two consecutive hours a week. The first hour was spent with the trained staff and the second with their child on a one to one. The programme focussed on Social & Emotional Development; Literacy and Numeracy. Pre and post questionnaires were completed by all families and the class teacher.

Process Change



The driver diagram below shows the aim: enter a brief description and/or diagram



Achievements



- ❑ By the end of the project, parents and children had attended the full 8 weeks.
- ❑ The project allowed the staff to model what positive interactions with children would look like
- ❑ 9 out of 11 parents said they felt they had benefited from the programme.
- ❑ Parents and children benefited from spending one to one time together due to the Crèche being available for younger siblings.
- ❑ One parent commented, “It has helped me to connect with my children,” and went on to mention how she has started handling behaviour better.
- ❑ Another parent commented “I am more mindful about properly listening and engaging with my child.”



Key Learning Points

LEADERSHIP

- ❑ To develop confidence in planning, delivering and reporting on a major school initiative.
- ❑ To identify and engage specific families , using the school tracking system and SIMD data

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- ❑ To establish positive working relationships with parents and their children.
- ❑ To work collaboratively with Save the Children.

LIMITATIONS

- ❑ Resourcing of the programme was time intensive.
- ❑ Teacher pre and post questionnaires were time consuming for the class teacher, requiring additional class cover for completion.

Results



Parent voice was gathered half way through the programme as well as at the end of the eight week block (in addition to the Save the Children pre and post questionnaires), here is what they thought:

- ❑ Topics were interesting and engaging with good hints and tips for parents;
- ❑ Parents valued one to one time with their child and being able to play games;
- ❑ Parents reported they were able to reflect on difficult situations and how they would better manage them;
- ❑ Enjoyed the relaxing atmosphere and look forward to coming each week;
- ❑ Great to have ready made activities to take home each week;
- ❑ The staff were very knowledgeable on the content of the sessions;

“We enjoyed all of the activities. This had a positive impact at home with both of my children.”

Conclusion



- ❑ The project was a success in meeting the aims of increasing parental engagement as a school as well as meeting the aims of the programme itself. This is evident through a site visit from Save the Children.
- ❑ Week’s 2 and 3 seemed to be the most popular among parents which focussed on The Importance of Praise and Listening with one parent commenting, “It’s been a great reminder to spend that extra time together with your child.”
- ❑ While some parents in the programme were initially apprehensive, they became engaged with high attendance and positive feedback.
- ❑ When asked, “On a scale of 1 to 10, how much have you enjoyed Families Connect?”, 10 out 11 parents scored 8 or higher.

Scale / Spread



What next for your project?

- ❑ Develop a similar programme for other year groups throughout the school to encourage parental engagement and one to one time with children and parents.
- ❑ Look into possible funding to provide a Crèche for further family learning opportunities which would encourage further engagement.
- ❑ Plan to re-run Families Connect in the Autumn term 2019.
- ❑ Possible School Improvement Priority for forthcoming year to link Family Learning to Developing Young Workforce
- ❑ Continuing to build family learning and engagement in a nurturing environment.



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We are class teachers at Colquhoun Park Primary School.