



In the West Partnership: Family Learning and Parental Engagement

Enter a brief description of your project

Family Café at Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, Govanhill

What was your aim?

To support parents/carers in their child's learning in numeracy, literacy, health and well being in school, home and community

Method



Consultation with parents through a Let' Learn questionnaire within the Govanhill schools resulted in establishing a Pilot Family Café. Head Teachers of nursery and primary schools were also supportive of this model and a FLAG group was established (Family Learning Action Group). The Family Café runs on Saturdays 10am – 4pm focusing on Fun Food and Learning. The programme focused on four learning strands Bookbug, Play Along Maths, Play For Families and Family ESOL.

Process Change



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

Tailored learning programmes to meet the needs of families resulted in many families returning to the Family Café every week. Parents/Carers became more confident in expressing their wishes for their children's learning and how best they could be supported. This was evidenced through direct observation, group discussion, impact statements, photographs and case studies.

Achievements



- Currently 193 participants registered for the Family Café
- Approximately 1000 attendees over a period of 8 weeks
- 70% are returning families
- Parents report increased confidence in supporting their child's learning
- Families are reporting new friendships and feelings of isolation are being broken down.
- Intergenerational learning is taking place
- Families are reporting that they are more considerate or respectful of others within my family and community and linked
- High School students are volunteering to support families with their children's learning.

Key Learning Points



LEADERSHIP

- A coordinator is key to the success of the project leading on funding applications, development of the FLAG group as well as effective monitoring and evaluation. The coordinator is key to effective communication between families, staff and volunteers.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

- Partnership working is crucial to the success of the Family Café for sharing resources and meeting the needs of the families living in a culturally diverse community.
- Robust partnership working through the FLAG has resulted in some of the hardest to reach families attending the Family Café.
- Headteacher involvement has resulted in further developing home school relationships.

LIMITATIONS

- Funding for the continuation of the Family Café.

Results



What was the result of your project?

Parents will be supported to volunteer for the Family Café and FLAG. Govanhill Cluster nursery and primary schools are actively involved. Robust FLAG group are looking at sourcing funding for future community learning projects such as Holiday Hunger Fund. Family Café model maybe be rolled out to other parts of the city. Parents are now accessing further learning programmes within their community.

Conclusion



Participant Quotes In Conclusion:

- “Coming to the Family Café each week has been great for me and my girls this feels like part of our family now”
- “My confidence and my children's confidence has improved as we have learned so many new things. We just love coming every week.
- “We are closer as a family as we eat together, play and learn and meet other families within our community”
- “The food is lovely we are very hungry and its so good that we can eat here all day”
- “I am more confident helping my son with his maths as the Play Along Maths is fun”

Scale / Spread



What next for your project?

Extend volunteering roles and FLAG representation to include parents/carers.

Support partners and schools to sustain and operate the Family Café beyond Family Learning Team coordination.

Family Café continues to operate at the weekends during school holidays.

Family Learning Officer to support the roll out of the Family Café in other areas of the city.