

Family learning

Learning together

- Family learning is any learning that includes more than one generation of a family.
- The learning may be informal or more formal.
 In our case mostly by playing and having fun.
- Family learning courses are delivered in preschools, schools and Family welfare centres.

Key points in family learning

- Parents are the first and most natural teachers of their children
- The home is a very valuable learning place and the first place children encounter literacy.
- Building social networks for parents
- Encouraging parents to become lifelong learners

Purpose/Goal with Family learning

- Make the parents aware of their important role in the child's emotional and intellectual development.
- Give an opportunity for children and parents to improve their skills together in an enjoyable way.
- Emphasize that family and home are important learning environments
- Foster relationships between parents and children
- Improve the parents reading and writing skills so they better can support the child.

- Give parents knowledge about the preschool activities and goals.
- Emphasize the importance of the mother tongue for the child's language development
- Develop skills in language and simultaneously give relevant knowledge about e.g. pre school for both adult and child

Our target groups in Linköping

- Newly arrived immigrant families.
- Adults and families who have been in Sweden for several years but not developed their skills in the Swedish language or succeeded to be included in the society or the labor market.

Some history

- Pre-1960s: Parents was not involved in schools and in childrens education.
- 1960s: Family background and parental involvement began to be recognized as important parts in a childs development. Targeted educational programmes could compensate for socio economic disadvantage.
- 1970s: USA, England, Australia started to involve parents in reading with their child
- 1990s: Family learning organizes and spreads in UK, Ireland at al. Researchers shows that parental engagement make a significant positive difference of the outcomes for pupils.

Parental involvement in a child's literacy practices is a more powerful force than other family background variables, such as social class, family size and level of parental education.

(Flouri and Buchanan 2004)



 There is a strong evidence for intergenerational transfer of poor language and bad numeracy from parents to children.

 Family learning can play a key role in helping to change this process.

Invitation and recruitment

- By open preschool and child health care
- Information letter to all preschools in the area
- Bridge builders are key persons
- Brochures translated in to Somali and Arabic

Time schedule

- Once a week / 5 to 10 sessions
- Session time 2 hours

Structure off a session

- Welcome
- Information about todays work
- Today's subject / free play / possible homework
- Fruit time
- Common activity parents and children linked to today's topic
- Clean up
- Summary: What have we learned / practised today?
- End off day and simple evaluation

Suggestions on topics

- Childs development
- To start preschool
- Give tools to parenting
- Swedish traditions
- What is god eating?
- The body
- Knowing the neighborhood
- How dose the social service work?
- Practice maths e.g make a cake
- Play games together



To learn body parts





To visualize a fairy tale



Simple evaluation



On the link below can you find a description of Family learning in Linköping and other adult earning programs.

<u>UNESCO data base</u>