



Family Learning with Northern Learning Trust



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At **Northern Learning Trust** we have a range of programmes that are specifically for families, covering a variety of subjects. Parents and carers can come along to a welcoming, friendly group where, as well as taking part in the programmes, they can meet other people with children of a similar age and share ideas and experiences.

They will explore issues surrounding their child's learning and development and will be supported in making inexpensive and effective resources to use with their children at home. Programmes are open to all parents / carers of children, whatever their level of ability or experience



Under the **Wider Family Learning** banner, Northern Learning Trust offer programmes covering a range of creative subjects aimed at encouraging parents and children to spend quality time together, trying something new and developing their creative skills. Topics covered include silk banner painting, mask making, air dried clay sculpture, glass painting, fancy dress costume making and seasonal crafts celebrating nature and cultural festivals.

We are also able to offer workshops and programmes under the **Family English, Maths and Language (FEML)** banner. These programmes aim to give parents and carers the skills, knowledge and confidence to support their child's literacy, language and numeracy development. Programmes are developed in partnership with schools and EYFS settings and concentrate on the specific age groups or developmental stages of the children. Parents are given an insight into their child's learning targets and the modern teaching methods used in schools today.

All of our FEML courses and workshops retain a strong craft element and parents are supported in making creative, colourful games and resources to support their child's learning and development at home.

Where funding permits we are also able to offer nationally recognised accredited Family Learning qualifications at levels 1 and 2.

Programmes offered include:

Programme	Content	Setting	Course length
Wider Family Learning Workshops	Creative arts and crafts for parents and children together	Children's centres, nurseries and schools	2 hours
Wider family Learning - Programmes	Creative arts and crafts for parents and children together	Children's centres, nurseries and schools	10 hours
Time to Talk	Craft Based Family Literacy for under 5's	Children's centres, nurseries and schools	10 hours
Fun with Phonics	Early phonics programme for EYFS children	Children's centres, nurseries and schools	10 hours
Fun with Words	Craft Based Family Literacy for Key Stage 1 children	Primary Schools, community venues	10 hours
Fun with Numbers	Craft Based Family Numeracy for Key stage 1 children	Primary Schools, community venues	10 hours
Help your child with maths	Craft Based Family Numeracy for Key stage 2 children	Primary Schools, community venues	10 hours
Help your child with English	Craft Based Family Literacy for Key stage 2 children	Primary Schools, community venues	10 hours
Ready for School	Craft Based programme supporting transition from Nursery to reception	Nursery Schools, Primary schools children's centres	10 hours
Science Families Workshops	An introduction for families exploring key areas of science and nature together	Primary Schools	2 hours
Science Families programmes	Families exploring key areas of science and nature together.	Primary Schools	10 hours

All of our tutors hold teaching qualifications at a minimum of level 4 and have a current enhanced DBS disclosure.

Wider Family Learning

At Northern Learning Trust we have a team of qualified and creative tutors who, where funding permits, are able to deliver a broad range of subjects as Wider Family Learning programmes or workshops.

Subjects offered include;

- ♦ Silk Painting
- ♦ Sewing Crafts
- ♦ Jewellery Making
- ♦ Puppet and mask making
- ♦ Glass painting
- ♦ Card making and scrap booking
- ♦ Seasonal Craft Activities (Christmas / Spring / Easter crafts etc.)
- ♦ Children's Fancy Dress Costumes
- ♦ Print making
- ♦ Air-dried clay pottery and others



Time To Talk

Time to Talk is a five week programme which aims to give parents / carers of young children an introduction to fun methods



Sessions last for two hours each week, during which time parents / carers explore their role in their child's speaking and listening development and produce simple, inexpensive resources to use with their children.

Resources produced include masks, finger-puppets, matching pairs games, simple musical instruments and a nursery rhyme book.



Fun with Phonics

The first step children make towards reading and writing is usually through phonics, which employs methods of linking sounds to letter shapes.

Fun with Phonics is a 10 hour introductory programme which aims to give parents and carers a deeper awareness of the importance of developing speaking and listening skills in young children.

They will look at how phonics are used in the EYFS and will make fun learning resources to support their child's developing phonic awareness. Sessions are usually delivered over two hours with the first half of the session spent with the parents alone



The children then join the group and share quality time with their parent or carer, joining in fun activities, songs and stories to help support their learning.

Parents will also explore methods of introducing phonics into everyday life and will learn how to produce fun learning resources and games to use at home.

This programme is aimed at parents and carers of children aged three to five years.

Fun With Numbers

When young children are entering nursery or school, maths or numeracy is often the area in which parents feel least confident in giving support.

Fun with numbers aims to give parents of foundation and key stage 1 children, an insight into what their children will be learning in maths and also the new strategies they will be taught.



Parents will explore their child's numeracy targets, will look at the language and terminology used and will be taught how to produce and use colourful, fun resources to support their child's learning through play.

Sessions can be delivered to groups of adults only or with children joining their parents / carers for part of the session.

Helping Your Child with Maths

“When we do maths homework together, I can usually get the right answer, but I don’t do it the way he does it in school.”

(Lorraine – Mum of Sean – yr 4)

A common concern of parents when asked to help with their child’s maths homework is that, although they can usually get the right answer, their way of working it out is different to the way their child is taught in school.



This programme aims to enable parents to support their child’s learning in maths, by demonstrating current teaching methods, explaining the terminology used and helping the parents to build confidence in their own skills.

The programmes are five weeks in length with 1 ½ - 2 guided learning hours per week. The parents will explore different topics and methods each week and will be supported in developing simple resources to help their child to learn.



N.B.

As topics covered vary from school year to school year, this programme will be most effective if parents recruited have children either in the same year group or adjacent year groups, i.e. foundation stage, years 1 and 2, years 3 and 4 and years 5 and 6.

Helping your Child with Literacy

These programmes aim to enable parents and carers of school age children to support their children in becoming fluent readers and writers of English. Tutors will consult with the class teacher and the parents, to be able to deliver a programme which will support the parents to offer help where their child needs it most.

Whether they are concerned about spelling and grammar, punctuation, writing skills, phonics, reading or a combination of several literacy skills, these programmes aim to give parents effective strategies for supporting their child's learning.



During the weekly sessions, the parents will discuss various strategies for supporting literacy development and will produce simple, fun resources to use at home with their child.

N.B.

As topics covered vary from school year to school year, this programme will be most effective if parents recruited have children either in the same year group or adjacent year groups, i.e. foundation stage, years 1 and 2, years 3 and 4 and years 5 and 6.

Science Families

Our Science Families workshops and programmes provide parents and children with fantastic opportunities to explore the everyday science in the world around them.

Topics covered include Space Discovery where as well as exploring the solar system, families will have an opportunity to fire water propelled rockets and send 'rocket mice' soaring through the air.



Families can explore animal habitats, try worm charming and learn all about the life cycles and habits of the mini beasts who share their world.

Northern Learning Trust has also developed a range of teaching materials for use in schools to support teaching and learning around Sustainability and the Science curriculum for schools. For further information on these materials please contact us on 0191 2710131 or by e-mail at admin@northernlearningtrust.org.uk .

Ready for school

The transition from nursery or pre-school to reception class can be a worrying time for both parents / carers and their children, but a little preparation can help make it a positive experience.

As well as looking at the everyday life skills your child will need in school, our Preparing for School workshops will explore the kind of things your child will be learning in Reception class and how they'll be taught.

We give parents and carers an overview of the yearly learning targets outlined in the primary strategy for literacy and numeracy, explore some of the methods that will be used to achieve them and outline some of the ways in which parents can provide help and support to their children at home. We will also take a brief look at how phonics are used in the EYFS and will make fun learning resources to support their child's developing phonic awareness and early numeracy and literacy skills. We aim to encourage parents and carers to become confident and supportive partners in their child's education.



Preparing for SATS

Preparing for SATS can be a stressful time for both Children and parents. These workshops / short courses aim to give parents an insight into what their children will be asked to do in their SATS tests. With a greater understanding of the topics and types of questions the tests will cover, parents will be able to provide effective support and guidance for their children.

Workshops aim to give parents / carers an understanding of the format of the tests, the types of questions asked and what the examiners will be looking for when marking the papers. They will look at both Maths and English SATS, and will be shown examples of previous papers.

We also offer **five week courses** at two hours per week, on SATs preparation, which as well as covering the above mentioned topics, aim to introduce parents / carers to useful strategies in both English and Maths, to support their children in getting ready for their tests.

To be most effective, the courses should be delivered either in the Autumn or early Spring terms, to enable parents to begin utilising strategies learned as quickly as possible.

Workshops can be delivered at any time prior to the tests.

Workshops and courses are aimed at parents / carers only.

Longer Programmes

Where funding is available we can also offer some 10 week programmes, both accredited and non-accredited.

Beginning Together

This 10 week non-accredited programme helps parents and carers of children aged 0 – 5, to understand the importance of engaging babies and very young children in conversation, songs and looking at books. During the course they will:

- Explore ways of talking to and playing with their child to encourage early language development
- Make inexpensive, imaginative and appropriate books to use with their own children
- Gain the confidence and skills to enjoy developing their child's capacity to learn



Parents/carers will receive three free books for their child and a disposable camera, the photos taken will be used to make simple books about their child.

As part of the course the parents/carers and children will be taken on a visit to their local library and weather permitting, will take part in a nature ramble.



Magic Moments

Magic Moments is a 10 week accredited programme (OCN Level 1) The programme uses sounds and music to help parents/carers of children aged 0 – 5, to engage with their children in activities designed to improve their communication skills. As well as receiving a free book and a musical instrument, parents/carers will:

- Explore ways of using sounds and music to help their children to develop speaking and listening skills
- Make finger puppets, a Magic Moments box, a storyboard and a game with a musical theme.



Ideas can be recorded in a very simple diary format which together with handouts and photographs, makes up a portfolio of work for accreditation.

(N.B. If a learner has literacy or language needs they can still complete the programme. Tutors or support workers can scribe for them.)

Storyboxes

Storyboxes is a 10 week accredited programme (OCN Level 2), which encourages parents and carers of children aged 2 – 8 years, to understand the importance of creative and imaginative play in developing children's language and literacy skills. As well as receiving a free book and disposable camera, the parents/carers will:

- Explore ways to develop and enhance storytelling activities with their child
- Examine their role and influence over children's speaking and listening skills



As with Magic Moments, ideas are recorded in a simple diary format which together with handouts and photographs, will make up a portfolio for accreditation.

(N.B. If a learner has literacy or language needs they can still complete the programme. Tutors or learner support can scribe for them.)

Special Time Together

This 10-week programme for parents and carers of young children with a special need, helps to develop early language, literacy and numeracy skills.

The aims of a Special Time Together programme are to enable parents/carers:

- to support their child in a unique way by making personal games and books that will capture their interest
- To make fun and creative activities to help their child develop and practise communication skills
- Gain the confidence and skills to enjoy developing their child's capacity to learn
- Help parents share experiences and support one another to gain confidence in networking with professionals involved with their child's development

The programme involves making a selection of books, visual aids and games using a range of art and crafts materials and a selection of personal photographs.



Being a Young Parent

Our 'Being a Young Parent' programmes aim to give practical advice and guidance on issues surrounding parenthood to young people who are about to, or have just become, parents.

Being a Young Parent 1

A 10 week non-accredited programme aimed at teenage expectant parents. The course aims to provide expectant parents with practical advice and information on subjects including:

- Staying healthy in pregnancy
- Preparing for birth
- Finance and housing
- Feeding and early care of baby
- Safety in the home



Being a Young Parent 2

A 6 week non-accredited programme aimed at new teenage parents. The course aims to give practical advice and guidance on subjects including:

- Rights and responsibilities as a parent
- Safety in the home
- Housing and finance – money management
- The importance of play and books in child development
- Careers and education issues

Both programmes are delivered with input from local health professionals and agencies such as Connexions and Children's Centres.

Notes:



Contact Details

You can get in touch with us by:

Writing a letter to:

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Or phoning on:

 0191 2710131

Or by e-mail:

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