



Family Learning


St. Columba's Primary School
Cupar
Fife



Why?

- Growing evidence in East Fife that children and parents, whose first language is not English, were needing support
- They needed help to integrate into school and the local community
- Lack of English language skills were a major barrier
- School staff were keen to engage with the parents as partners in the children's learning





Elmwood College, in partnership with Fife Council Integrated Community Schools and St. Columba's Primary School agreed that helping parents and children to learn English together, based within the school, was seen as an effective way of tackling these issues.



The Family Learning Project was formed.

Structure



- The project was initially rolled out for a pilot in December 2007
- It was to run for four weeks, and then be reviewed
- It runs on a Thursday afternoon, 3.30pm-4.30pm in the Community Lounge of St. Columba's Primary School in Cupar
- Support Worker - Anne Collie



Atmosphere

Each session:

- is very relaxed and informal
- starts with juice/tea/coffee and a snack
- the tutor and support worker circulate asking general 'how are you questions?', 'what did you do at school today?' etc.
- the tutor and support worker also engage with the parents
- we have a main teaching session



Teaching



- We set a piece of target language learning, planned in advance, and usually based on a theme
- Introduced by a mixture of flashcards and matching vocabulary tasks, pronunciation models and drilling
- Supplementary activities designed to reinforce the language and to encourage engagement with the target language



Successes

- to the pilot and beyond! 😊
- increased confidence
- increased self-esteem
- supports inclusion and increased engagement with school and local Community
- formation of networks and support between families



Success

Summer Party & Award Ceremony



Success



- Visit from Fiona Hyslop MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning: 22nd September 2008



The future?

- Strengthen model
- Other Primary Schools
- Nursery Schools
- High Schools





Questions?





Family Learning Class

St. Columba's Primary School

July 2007

