



Skills for Families

Read On - Write Away! was awarded a national pilot project for family learning - Skills for Families, one of only 12 in the country, in April 2003. We have heard recently that we have been successful for Phase 2 of the pilot project, starting 1st September 2004.

Families can play a big role in getting adults back into learning, and the new *Skills for Families* programme aims to make sure this happens. *Skills for Families* supports the Early Years, Primary, Key Stage 3 and Social Inclusion strategies and builds on the best practice that exists, developing effective strategic approaches to embedding family literacy, language and numeracy.

Skills for Families has worked, during its first year, with 12 partners across the country to help meet the need for effective family learning programmes through a joined up programme between Local Education Authorities, local Learning and Skills Councils and providers. By developing workable infrastructures and new approaches to planning, Skills for Families has provided a framework for the future development and mainstreaming of family learning provision.

The programme piloted new models of delivery including work with secondary schools, teacher training and distance learning programmes, workplaces and voluntary organisations to reach and engage a wider audience. The lessons and experience learned from this exciting new development will be shared with schools, LEAs and LSCs across the country through the *Skills for Families website* (www.skillsforfamilies.org) as the programme rolls out.

Read on - Write Away!, through *Skills for Families* continues to work with schools to deliver Family Literacy/numeracy, Keeping up with the Kids (literacy, numeracy and ICT), Numeracy Workshops, Toddler Talk and Storysacks courses but is also working more closely with community groups and voluntary groups. Several new areas of work have been developed: KUWK ICT in Key Stage 3, workplace family learning, residential courses for parents and children. There have been increased opportunities for access to national and local training and information for pre and post 16 teachers, classroom assistants etc., as well as dissemination events.

Further Details ...

For more information on the Read On - Write Away!, Skills for Families Pilot contact:

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