



HSU Course Outline

Family Literacy: Supporting Family Learning

DFSW0058v.1

6 weeks

Description

This in-depth six weeks online course is specifically designed to broaden the idea of “parents as teachers” beyond the instructional role parent’s play, by looking at the entire family learning environment. The training will look at ways programs can support family learning experience as they naturally occur. The course rest on the assumption that children’s most important learning occurs through shared activities with family members. It is imperative that staff members learn to identify encourage and support family learning opportunities that occur in the daily lives of families. Observation can be an invaluable tool from practitioners to use in matching families’ interests and needs to learning experiences within the home and beyond. Head Start already supports family learning in many different ways. The challenge for programs and staff is to expand and individualize these supports so they are connected to family learning environments and match the goals identified by families themselves. This course is designed to help staff and parents meet this challenge together as partners.

Prerequisites

- none

Who Should Take This Course?

This course is designed for Family Service Workers, Home visitors, and for teaching staff concerned with building bridges between family learning environments. Parents are also an audience for this training. However, because all staff has the potential to affect learning that occurs in the home, the training opportunities can apply to all Head Start staff.

Objectives

- ✓ Describe factors affecting children’s learning
- ✓ Identify ways that parents support children’s learning in the context of their everyday activities
- ✓ Identify how parental beliefs about children’s learning affect how and what children learn
- ✓ Identify everyday experiences that contribute to children’s learning
- ✓ Use observation techniques to identify elements of supportive family learning environments
- ✓ Identify different approaches to promoting children’s thinking and learning
- ✓ Build upon experiences that are fun and enjoyable to foster learning
- ✓ Use observations to individualize services that support family learning
- ✓ Use home visits and parent conferences as opportunities to support family learning goals
- ✓ Identify how your program can provide a range of family literacy activities to meet the needs of families.

Outline

Parents as Teachers

- About Learning
 - Snapshots of Learning
- Understanding How Young Children Learn
 - How Parents support learning
- Your own learning Environments
 - Connected by our stories
- Supportive Elements of Family Learning

Observing Family Learning

- Enriching Language and Problem Solving
 - Talking with your child

- Listening to Ourselves
 - Listening Code Sheets
- Mediating Messages
 - Children are “Listening” All the Time
 - Mixed Messages
- Dinner at Rosie’s
 - Observing parent’s style
 - The “Ideal” parent
- Learning All the Time
 - Learning and Having Fun Together
 - Things we did together

The final picture

Putting it all together

Summary of observations

Supporting Family Learning Goals

Parent Conferences

Lara's Point of View

Mary Ellin's Point of View

Discussion Questions

Planning for Conferences

Conferences with Staff

Planning Home Visits

James and David

Stories for Playtime

A Five Step Planning Process

Family Literacy

How well do you support family literacy?

Literacy Building Activities