

THE FAMILY LEARNING FESTIVAL'S MINI GUIDE TO SUPPORTING

THE LEARNING REVOLUTION



About this guide

The Learning Revolution is the Government's vision for informal adult learning in the 21st Century. This guide explains *The Learning Revolution* White Paper and how you can support its aims through your Family Learning Festival activities and your wider work with adults, whether they are carers, grandparents or employees. Making these connections will also enable your organisation to link into national strategies, local authority priorities and potential funding.



Informal adult learning and family learning

The Learning Revolution sets out the Government's strategy for informal adult learning, which is learning for personal development, enrichment, stimulation or enjoyment and does not necessarily lead on to further learning or result in a qualification.

Informal adult learning encompasses a huge variety of activities – from dance classes to book groups to guided visits at heritage sites to research on topics of interest on the internet.

Research shows that lifelong learners are more likely to be happier, healthier, have better jobs, contribute more to society and live longer, more fulfilled lives. Informal adult learning can build confidence and resilience of individuals. The social relationships that develop as a result of informal learning can provide networks of support and solidarity. Informal learning can also be an important stepping stone to further learning and a more skilled future, particularly for adults who may be less confident or low skilled.

Family learning activities support informal adult learning in a number of ways:

- they can encourage adults who may be least likely to learn to take part in learning activities
- they provide a low threat environment and opportunity for adults to try something different and discover new interests
- they offer a platform for adults to find out about other informal learning opportunities in their community
- they can support the creation of social networks that lead to other informal adult learning activities and self-organised groups based on common interests.

About *The Learning Revolution*

The Learning Revolution White Paper sets out a strategy to:

- build a culture of learning
- increase access to informal adult learning
- support self-organised learning
- make the most of technology and broadcasting.

Building a culture of learning will be achieved through four initiatives:

1 The Informal Adult Learning pledge

Organisations from across the board are invited to sign up and become ambassadors to support and deliver the 'learning revolution', by actively promoting participation and finding new ways to get people involved.

2 The Learning Revolution Festival

This will take place throughout October 2009 bringing together a wide range of organisations to celebrate informal learning both at national and local level. The legacy of this Festival will include an open website which will link together learners, venues and providers.

3 An 'Open Space' movement

To encourage the growth and choice of learning opportunities, all types of organisations from schools to supermarkets will be invited to throw open their facilities at no or low cost to support informal learning activities.

4 Transformation Fund

In May 2009, BIS issued an invitation to bid for grants to develop and support the infrastructure and delivery of informal adult learning, with a 12th July deadline.

The successful bids have been announced.

Increasing access to informal adult learning will be achieved through initiatives that reach new learners, such as community learning champions; and initiatives that support people who find it less easy to access learning such as older people, and people who are disadvantaged.

To transform the way people learn through technology and broadcasting

The Learning Revolution sets out strategies to:

- develop skills, confidence and access to technology;
- create more and different learning opportunities;
- stimulate partnerships using technology.
- ensure informal learning is at the forefront of applying relevant emerging technologies.

To achieve the vision of *The Learning Revolution*, the Government will act as a catalyst. However the emphasis is on a bottom-up movement, involving local partners and organisations. A National Advisory Forum has been set up to support and challenge the Government to ensure that *The Learning Revolution* happens. Local Authorities are being asked to provide leadership and infrastructure to support *The Learning Revolution* at a local level.

To find out the latest visit www.dius.gov.uk/learningrevolution

How can your organisation link into the Revolution?

Now...

Join the community and find out more and be part of the conversation.

thelearningrevolution.ning.com

This week ...

Take the pledge!

www.dius.gov.uk/skills/engaging_learners/informal_adult_learning/pledge

This October 2009

Link your Family Learning Festival event to *The Learning Revolution* and the Learning Revolution Festival. This could include:

- co-branding your event as part of the Learning Revolution Festival
thelearningrevolution.ning.com
- including your Family Learning Festival event on the Learning Revolution map (link);
this will enable you to receive free Family Learning Festival promotional material
- promoting other Learning Revolution Festival events to your learners
www.direct.gov.uk/learningrevolution
- highlighting your commitment to *The Learning Revolution* in your media work
- inviting community learning groups to your event to showcase learning opportunities
- promoting your venue as an 'Open Space'
thelearningrevolution.ning.com

If you haven't organised a Family Learning Festival event, you can still be part of the Learning Revolution Festival by promoting events to your audiences and service users

www.direct.gov.uk/learningrevolution

After October 2009

Be part of the **Open Spaces** movement you could offer the use of your venue and facilities or find yourself getting a free space!

Useful links

For more information on the Learning Revolution
www.dius.gov.uk/learningrevolution

For more information on the Family Learning Festival
www.familylearningfestival.com

Finding Family Learning Festival Events
www.welovelearning.co.uk

Finding Learning Revolution Festival Events
www.direct.gov.uk/learningrevolution

For more information about the Open Space movement
thelearningrevolution.ning.com

For a resource on supporting informal adult learning through technology
www.futurelab.org.uk/resources/documents/project_reports/becta/Adult_Informal_Learning_poster.pdf