

Families Connect: Focus group information for parents

Thank you for thinking about taking part in the Families Connect focus group and taking the time to read this information.

What is Families Connect?

Families Connect is a programme that aims to support parents to enhance their children's learning through exploring games and fun activities. It runs for eight weeks and involves both parents and children who take the learning they have explored in the session to try out at home. Families Connect explores social and emotional learning, literacy and numeracy through the medium of play.

Why have I been asked to take part in a focus group?

Families Connect is a new programme we are currently trying out in schools across the UK. We are trying to find out how the programme works and what difference it makes to the families and children taking part. We would like to talk to you about why you decided to take part in Families Connect, what you got out of it and your thoughts on how you support your child to learn. We would also like to hear from you about your involvement in your child's school.

What will happen at the focus group?

The focus group will be informal and relaxed. We will ask you questions about why you signed up to take part in Families Connect and how you already support your children at home to learn. All thoughts and ideas you have are helpful to us. We will record what is said as it is hard to remember everything and we may also take notes at times too.

How long will it take?

The session should take about one hour; this often depends on the size of the group and how much you have to say.

Why do you want to record the group?

We will record and write up what is said to make sure we capture all of your views and opinions. Only Save the Children employees will have access to the recording. Everything else will be written up anonymously without using anyone's name and you will not be identifiable to anyone. For example, we would say "One person said this..." or "A number of people mentioned..." or "A parent from Scotland said..."

How will my information be used?

Your views will help us to make sure Families Connect is as good as it can be and might be used to make changes to the programme. Although your name will not be used, this means your views and opinions may be included in reports that could be seen by possible funders, schools, other parents and other charities to explain how and why we have made changes to our programme.

What if I change my mind and don't want to take part?

It is your choice if you would like to take part and you are free to change your mind at any time and leave the focus group. We will then not include anything you have said in the focus group up to that point in anything we write up.

I would like to have a say, but I am not comfortable with taking part in a focus group.

We value your opinions and would be very happy to do an informal one on one interview with you if you would prefer. Just let us know.

You can find out more about Save the Children and the work of the organisation at any time by visiting the website www.savethechildren.org.uk.

