

**Family Learning Festival:  
Inspiring Curiosity Event  
Organiser Workshop**

**Family  
Learning  
Festival**

**Inspiring Curiosity**

campaign  
for learning





14 October –  
5 November  
2023





# Why Take Part?

Participating organisations report a wide range of benefits from taking part in the Festival. Our last large scale survey indicated:

- **79%** of Family Learning Festival organisers **reached new audiences** as a result of their activities.
- **74%** of organisers **developed new learning opportunities** through involvement in the Festival.
- **73%** of organisers ran events that were **attended by disadvantaged families or families at risk of social exclusion**.
- **84%** of organisations highlighted further learning opportunities as part of their activities.
- **96%** of organisations indicated they would get involved in Family Learning Festival again.



# Inspiring Curiosity

“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existence.”

*Albert Einstein*

Old Man's Advice to Youth: 'Never Lose a Holy Curiosity.'" LIFE Magazine (2 May 1955)



# Inspiring Curiosity Benefits

Curiosity helps us to survive

Curiosity expands our empathy

Curiosity strengthens our relationships

Curious people are happier

Curiosity boosts achievement



14 October –  
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# Planning Your Festival

- Step 1 Set your goals
- Step 2 Choose your activities
- Step 3 Think about Skills for Life
- Step 4 Working in partnership
- Step 5 Plan Promotion
- Step 6 Signposting
- Step 7 Ensure your event is safe
- Step 8 Evaluation





# Step 1

# Set your goals





## Your Goals

These could be a mix of:

- Increasing the number of people engaging with your organisation
- Promoting specific types of learning such as digital skills, STEM, literacy
- Raising your profile of your organisation
- Opportunities to work with new partners



# Your Families

Next, think about your target audience. For example, you may decide to target:

- dads
- families from a particular ethnic background
- families who live in a particular area
- parents who don't usually engage in school activities
- Not sure which groups to target?



**GOV.UK** Topics Government activity

Home

# Research and statistics

Search 2,333 results [Get emails](#) [Subscribe to feed](#)

**About**  and

Sort by

### Overview of the UK Population

To provide a summary of the UK population, highlighting the changes and the factors which contribute to this.

Document type: National Statistics Organisation: Office for National Statistics  
Updated: 25 February 2022

[www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk)



## Step 2

# Choose your activities

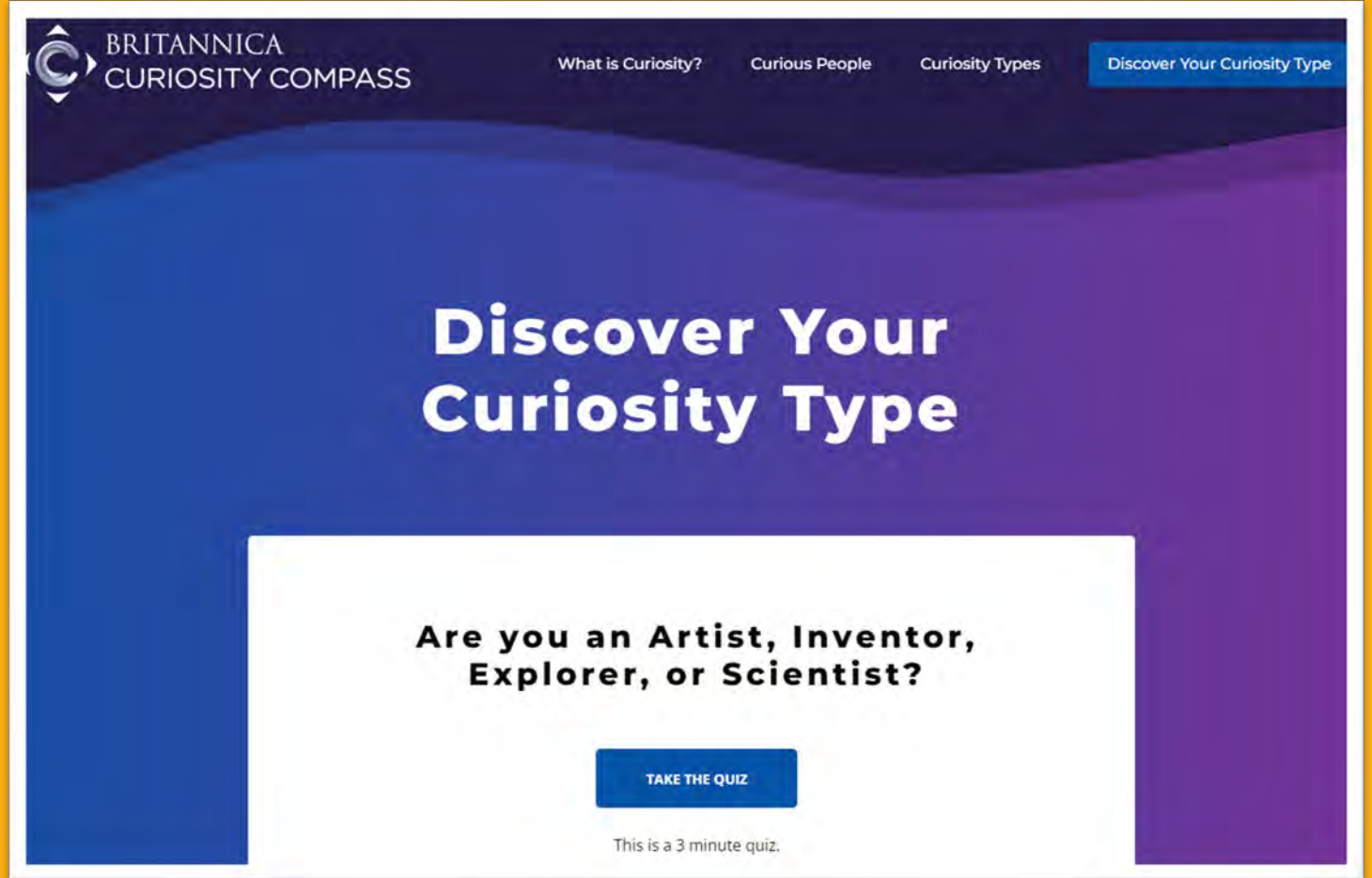


## How to choose?

- The types of activities your target families are interested in. Ask!
- What will people learn from the activity?
- Incorporate a crowd puller.
- Hit the road and meet families where they are!
- What happens next?

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BRITANNICA  
CURIOSITY COMPASS

What is Curiosity? Curious People Curiosity Types [Discover Your Curiosity Type](#)

## Discover Your Curiosity Type

**Are you an Artist, Inventor, Explorer, or Scientist?**

[TAKE THE QUIZ](#)

This is a 3 minute quiz.

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Annie Pendrey · 2nd

Author (Routledge) The Little Book of Reflection out 2022. Freelance Writer. Dissertation Supervisor. PhD student. O... 5d · 🌐

A curriculum of curiosity, creativity and reflection starts in early years and needs to continue throughout the sectors. Give learners opportunity to germinate & cultivate their ideas, walk away & return as they wish. Non compliance v compliance #education #opportunity #compliance #creativity #ReflectConnect #earlyyears

## Instead of This

Close-ended, creativity killing crafts, with predictable outcomes



- Teacher cuts all parts of the penguin's body, including shape, feet, eyes, & beaks
- Child has to tediously paste cotton balls within the lines.
- Teacher directs where the eyes and beak should go.
- This experience is close-ended, teacher-driven, & limiting to all domains.

Remember, if you have to do more work than the children, it's not developmentally

## Try This

Open-ended art provocations with unpredictable outcomes



- Child is invited to explore the paints in their own way, while having a real-life image of penguins to potentially guide their experience.
- Open-ended art experiences do not have a predictable outcome and meets various learners where they're at.
- For the child who may be struggling a bit with fine motor development, they can freely practice mark making, color mixing, while freely working with a thin paintbrush for an unlimited amount of time - since there's no concrete end product in mind.
- For the child who may be advanced with their fine motor skills, they may be inclined to challenge themselves and try to replicate the real image of a penguin, or show you

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## PLAY LIST

A screenshot of a website's 'PLAY LIST' section. The page has a blue background with a white scalloped border at the top. A navigation bar contains tabs for 'Featured', 'Outdoors', 'Imagination', 'Indoors', 'Active games', 'Problem solving', 'DIY', and 'Memory and Guessing'. The 'Most Popular' section is highlighted with yellow lightning bolts and contains four activity cards: 'Jumping Caps', 'What We See', 'Parachutes', and 'Funny Statistics'. The 'Lockdown fun' section is highlighted with a white 'X' and contains four activity cards: 'Cardboard Puppet Theatre', 'Shine A Light', 'Flip The Blanket', and 'Superhero Costume Lottery'. Each card features a photograph of children engaged in the activity and a title. Some cards include a 'Playful Learning Lab' logo and text indicating a partnership with 'RIGHT TO PLAY'. Navigation arrows and 'See all' links are present for each section.



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## Learn and play

How old is your child?

0-6 months  
[View Activities >](#)

6-12 months  
[View Activities >](#)

1-2 years  
[View Activities >](#)

3-4 years  
[View Activities >](#)

5-8 years  
[View Activities >](#)

9-12 years  
[View Activities >](#)

The screenshot shows the "Words for Life" website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with "Words for Life" and "National Literacy Trust" logos, and menu items for "Activities", "Parent support", "Zone In", and "About us". The main heading is "#9-12 years #Playing". Below this, there are filter options for "9-12 years" and "Play", with an "Apply filters" button. The content area displays a grid of activity cards:

- Milestones by the age of nine**: [Read now](#)
- Milestones by age 12**: [Read now](#)
- Take a quiz on books about friendship**: [Read now](#)
- INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY**: Celebrate International Dot Day! [Read now](#)
- Make your own frozen yoghurt and berry pops**: [Read now](#)
- Make an ice lolly stick bee**: [Read now](#)
- Watch videos from inspiring children's authors**: [Read now](#)
- Take a quiz all about the jungle**: [Read now](#)

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Words for Life

National Literacy Trust

Hungry Little Minds

Activities ▾

Parent support

Zone In

About us

## How to play with your child



[Home](#) > [Activities](#) > [How to play with your child](#)

Learning to share, take turns, chat, be comfortable and become friends with others are life-long skills. These skills take some time to learn! You can help your child practise learning these important things by playing together.

There are lots of different ways to do this. You can set up play dates with friends or family members, either in person or via FaceTime or WhatsApp.

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## Tiny treasure hunt

You'll need to keep your eyes peeled for this activity. Hunt for really small things you can fit into a matchbox. Collect little leaves, blades of grass, small snail shells, tiny twigs, feathers and pebbles. Turn it into a competition with your family – who can fit the most items inside their box?

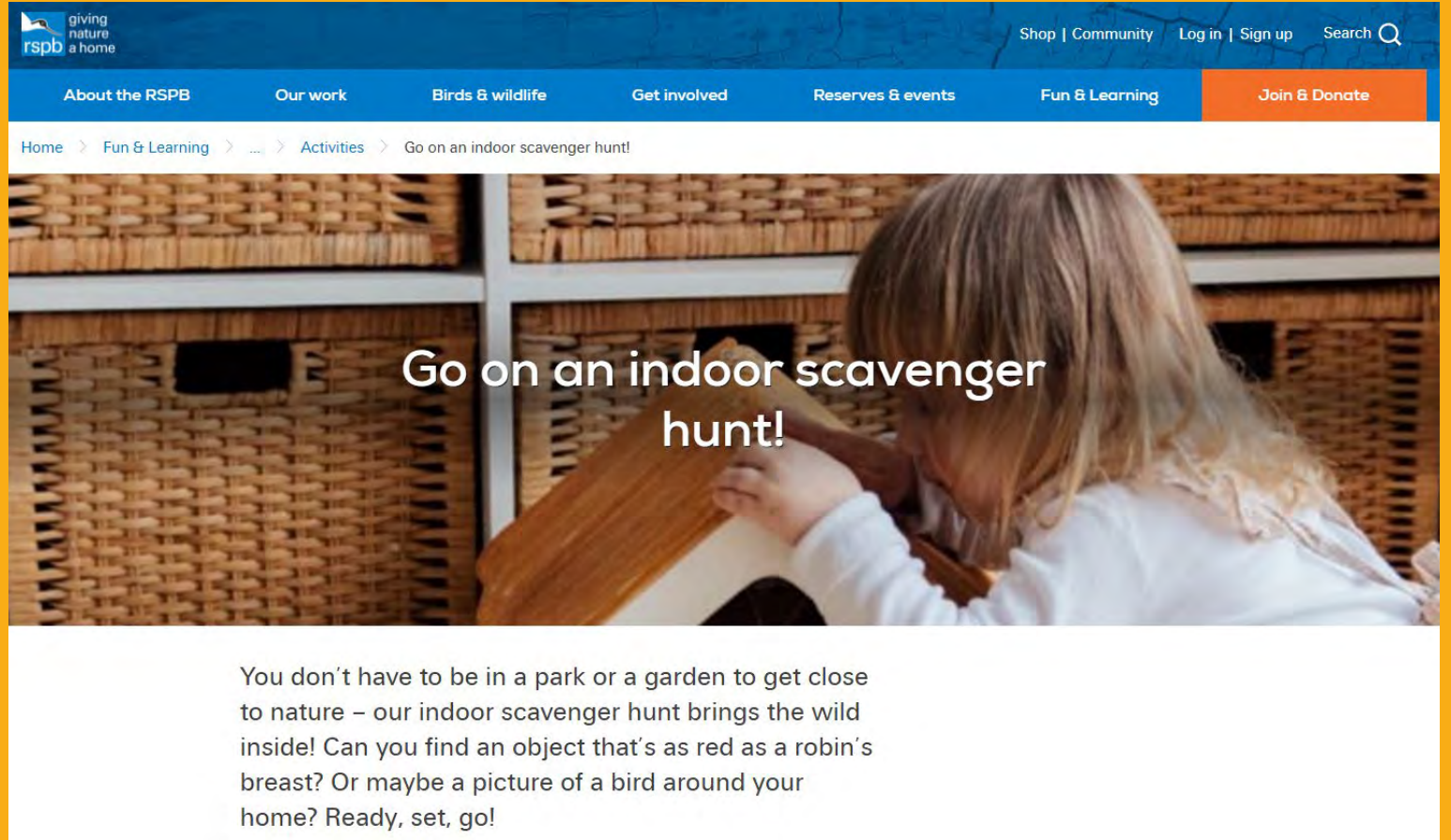
You can take a magnifying glass on your scavenger hunt to help children to investigate their finds. Can they see intricate patterns, subtle colour changes and interesting textures?



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The screenshot shows the RSPB website interface. At the top left is the RSPB logo with the tagline "giving nature a home". To the right are links for "Shop | Community", "Log in | Sign up", and a search icon. Below this is a blue navigation bar with menu items: "About the RSPB", "Our work", "Birds & wildlife", "Get involved", "Reserves & events", "Fun & Learning", and "Join & Donate". A breadcrumb trail below the navigation bar reads: "Home > Fun & Learning > ... > Activities > Go on an indoor scavenger hunt!". The main content area features a photograph of a young child with long hair, seen from behind, looking into a wicker basket. Overlaid on the photo is the text "Go on an indoor scavenger hunt!". Below the photo is a white text box containing the following text: "You don't have to be in a park or a garden to get close to nature – our indoor scavenger hunt brings the wild inside! Can you find an object that's as red as a robin's breast? Or maybe a picture of a bird around your home? Ready, set, go!"

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Connecting People. Creating History



## TOYS

Toy cars, jigsaws, hop scotch games? Here's your questions to find out and record their best memories.

[TOYS QUESTION SHEET](#)



## LEARNING

You're never too old to learn something new: discover more about the experiences that shaped your loved ones.

[LEARNING](#)

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## Plan your book



Now it's your turn to make a miniature book for your toys

What would you like to read to them? A bedtime story?  
Would it be a pirate adventure, a fairy tale or a soothing lullaby?



Would it be a factual book about other countries and cultures, about the universe, about life at the bottom of the ocean or about a famous period of history such as Ancient Egypt or the Fire of London?



It could be a graphic novel  
A recipe book  
A sketchbook



A schoolbook to help your toys learn about the world  
A book to write music in  
Perhaps it's a simple ABC.

## How to make your book



**Tools & Materials needed to make one miniature book**  
Light weight paper – 1 sheet of A4 plain or lined paper (this sheet will make two miniature books); Coloured paper, wrapping paper, magazines or newspaper for book covers and spines; Scissors; Small elastic band, string or even a bobby pin to bind your book; Pencil; Glue



### Fold your paper

Fold your A4 paper in half, short side to short side – Take your time to try and match the corners and then flatten the paper with your hand.

Now, firmly run your finger down the crease to create a tight fold.

Make sure to do this every time you fold your paper.

Cut or tear the A4 sheet in half, short side to short side. Save one half to make another book later.



Fold the paper in half, short side to short side,

and in half again, short side to short side,

And in half again, short side to short side.

Open the paper up - there will be 8 rectangles.

These rectangles will become the pages of your book.



Cut the paper with scissors, so you have four sets of folded double pages.

Fold the cut sheets in half, short side to short side.

Put the folded pieces inside one another.

This folded block will become the pages of your book.

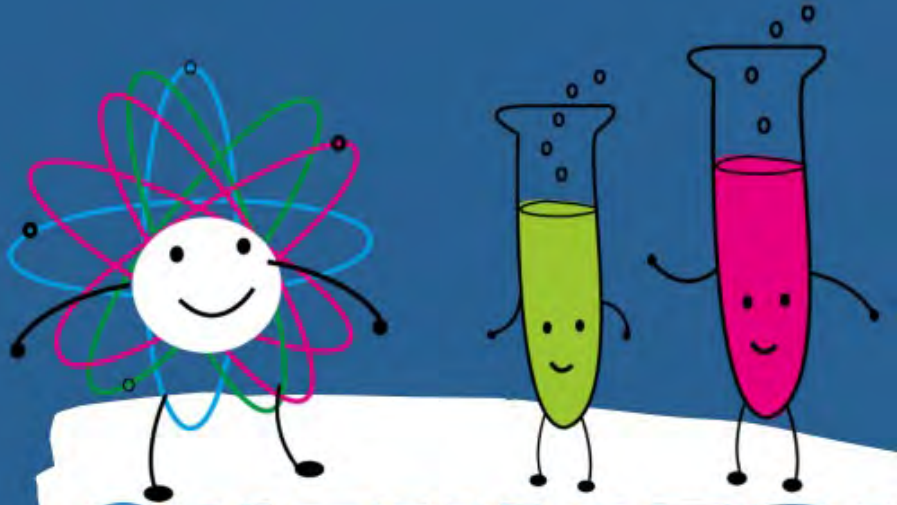
It is called the *book block*.

Put the book block to one side.

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**CHEMISTRY  
CATALYST**  
SCIENCE ACTIVITIES  
FOR ALL THE FAMILY



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## 5 4 3 2 1 Blast off ...

Make rockets blast off using fizzy fuel!

### What you need

- Empty plastic drinks bottle (500ml or smaller) with sports cap – eg a fruit shoot bottle
- Plastic container to place drinks bottle in
- Warm water from the tap
- Fizzy tablets - eg own brand effervescent vitamin C tablets
- Permanent marker pens



## Crazy Colours

Create a rainbow with candy

### What you need

- Water
- Skittles or M&Ms or other coated sweets
- Plate

## Crystal icicles

Grow your own crystals

### What you need

- A cup and a half of salt – ideally Epsom salts but you can use normal table salt
- Boiled water
- 2 Empty glass jars
- Cotton string
- Pencil
- Saucepan
- Food colouring (optional)





SCIENCE  
MUSEUM  
GROUP

COLLECTION

LEARNING

THE GROUP

VISIT OUR MUSEUMS ▾

LEARNING

OUR APPROACH AND SCIENCE CAPITAL ▾

LEARNING RESOURCES ▾

ACADEMY ▾

TRANSFORMING PRACTICE BLOG



## LEARNING RESOURCES

This site brings together resources from our Museums, including activities, games and videos. Discover activities to support a range of curriculum topics for use in the classroom, in museum galleries and beyond.

[BROWSE ALL RESOURCES →](#)

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## SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

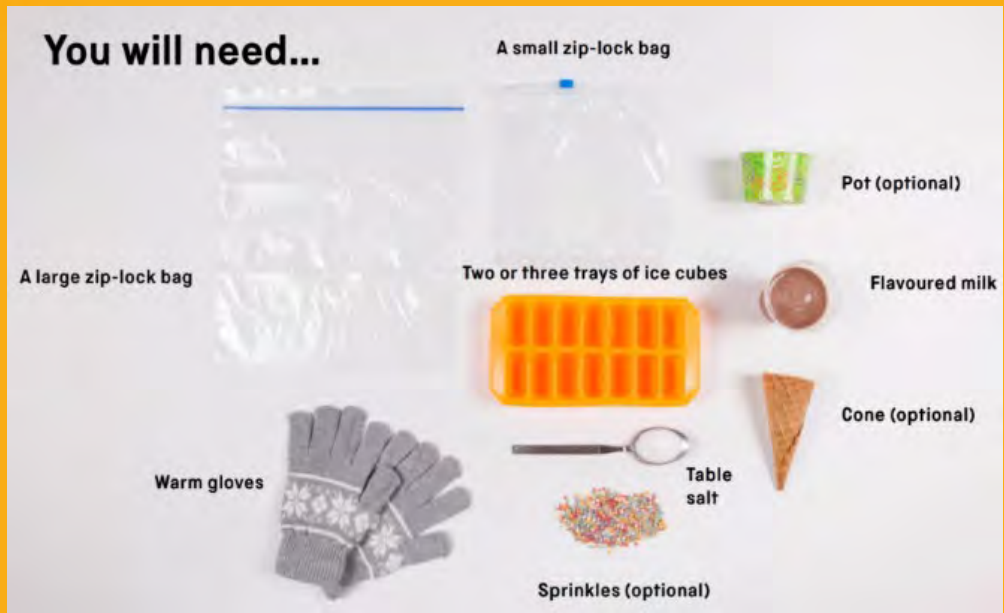


## PINBALL POWER

<b>MAKING</b> 	Age <b>7-11</b> <b>11-14</b>	Topic <b>FORCES</b>	<b>40 MIN</b>
	Skills used <b>CREATIVE PROBLEM-SOLVING • MAKING OBSERVATIONS</b>		

# Family Learning Festival



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## SCIENCE MUSEUM GROUP

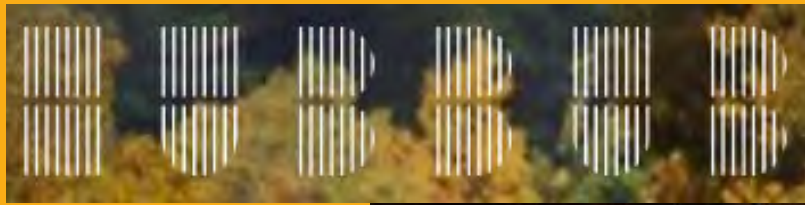


## INSTANT ICE CREAM

 <b>MAKING</b>	Age <b>7-11</b> <b>11-14</b>	Topic <b>MATTER</b>	 <b>20 MIN</b>
	Skills used <b>MAKING OBSERVATIONS • CURIOSITY</b>		

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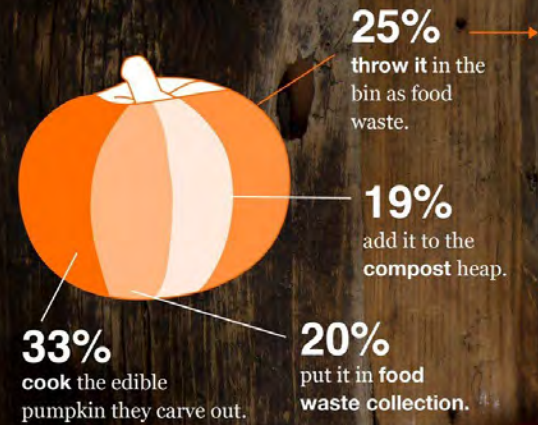
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## THE SCARY TRUTH ABOUT PUMPKINS

**42%** of people buy pumpkins in the UK each year, but they don't always end up in a happy home:

A whopping **18,000 tonnes of pumpkin** are thrown away each year. That's the same as 360 million portions of pumpkin pie.



### EAT YOUR PUMPKIN

Find your local #PUMPKINRESCUE event at [WWW.HUBBUB.ORG.UK](http://WWW.HUBBUB.ORG.UK)





# Inspiration from previous Festivals

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@HathernLibrary · Oct 26, 2019

It's our last crochet session this morning for Family Learning Month. 10-12pm [#familylearningfestival](#) [#hathern](#)



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**Employment and Skills Leeds** @eandsleeds · Oct 19, 2022

Whether it starts with 'Once upon a time' or 'A long time ago' storytelling is an important skill to have. That's why [#leedsfamilylearning](#) challenging you to create your own stories! Post in the replies about your story and see if it inspires others.

[#FamilyLearningFestival](#)

## Family Learning Festival 2022



### Story Challenge

Can you create your own story?

Tell us about it!



EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS LEEDS



1



2





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North Tyneside Council Adult Lear... @NTAdultLear... · Oct 23, 2019 ...  
Celebrating #FamilyLearningFestival @flfestival tomorrow with MumSpace and @dudleypreschool learning through play with a spooky theme.



1



5



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**Acorns Nurseries** @acornsnurseries · Oct 23, 2019

Acorns Whitchurch are taking part in the Family Learning Festival. The festival is a national celebration to mark and inspire a love of learning in family life.

[#familylearningfestival](#) @flfestival



2

3

7

|||

↑

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**Bev Dickinson** @BevDickinson4 · Oct 22, 2021  
The finale of this weeks Pottery sessions @NewWaveFed celebrating the #FamilyLearningFestival @lifestival 🎉

•• at our @TFPrimaryN1 #Families enjoying clay creativity under the wonderful guidance of Clare, our potter extraordinaire ❤️

More info here: [familylearningfestival.com/whats-on](http://familylearningfestival.com/whats-on)



🗨️ 1 ❤️ 6 📊 📤

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LS2Y Community @ls2y\_group · Oct 30, 2019

More fun fun fun & learning today here at the [#ChestnutCentre](#) for the lil ones with Professor Emma, exploring incredible fun chemical reactions 🧪👨👩👧👦🌊🌟🧪🌍 [#FuntasticTimes](#) Thankyou for coming Professor Emma, we all had so much fun 😊  
[#FamilyLearningFestival](#) @KirkleesLibrary



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**East Sussex County Council** @EastSussexCC · Oct 24, 2020

Love Learning at Home – East Sussex Libraries Services have courses for the whole family to learn some new skill such as family First Aid and Parent and Child Signing [ow.ly/EUPd50BXuAd](https://www.east-sussex.gov.uk/learning-at-home) #FamilyLearningFestival



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 **LarbertHighASC** @LarbertHighASC · Oct 26, 2022

Great fun at tonight's ASC Oktoberfest during this weeks LHS Family Learning Festival @LarbertHigh @LHSLanguages @mrshurren\_lhs @MrsWaterfall\_ #FamilyLearningAtLarbert



  2  18  

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GHSUniformBank @GHSUniformBank · Nov 6, 2019

There will be a uniform bank donation station at tomorrow's S4-S6 family learning festival. Any donations for our young people would be greatly appreciated. #GHS #GHSUniformBank

The logo for 'GHS Learning Together' features the text 'GHS' above a circular icon containing a house and three stylized figures, with the text 'Learning Together' below the icon.

**We're replacing a Parents' Evening with a S4-S6 Family Learning Festival!**  
We would love to see all parents and carers of S4-6 pupils at the event, and are offering a wider range of activities to suit everyone.

**Targeted Appointments (Dining Hall)**  
We've asked class teachers to indicate the parents/ carers they would most like to see, in order to maximise attainment performance in prelim examinations. A member of your child's House Team may contact you by telephone to arrange.

**Drop-in Sessions (Games Hall)**  
All teachers will be present at the Senior Learning Festival. Departments will organise stalls and be available to highlight course structures, key deadlines and answer any questions you may have regarding your child's progress. No appointments are necessary. Just drop-in!

**Parent/ Child Workshops (various)**  
Throughout the evening, there will be a series of workshops designed to provide support and advice.  
No need to book – just come along!

**Information Hub (Social Space)**  
A range of key information is available from our Information Hub. Staff will be on-hand to answer any questions.

**S4-S6 Family Learning Festival**  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November (4pm – 6.30pm)



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**GHSDesign&Technology** @GHSDesignTech · Nov 7, 2019

Come and see us at the [@GHSfalkirk](#) Senior Phase Family Learning Festival! [#attainment](#) [#familyengagement](#)



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**LHS Technologies** @LHSTechnologies · Oct 27, 2022

Lovely to be able to welcome families in to participate in our "Practically Perfect" workshop earlier this week as part of the @LarbertHigh Family Learning Festival 🛠️🔧



Mrs Elliott and Mr Au1d



**Larbert High School** @LarbertHigh · Oct 25, 2022



We are offering an outstanding and vast array of Family Learning sessions across all faculties this year. Please use the attached link to see our full brochure and to sign up now before all spaces are gone!



2



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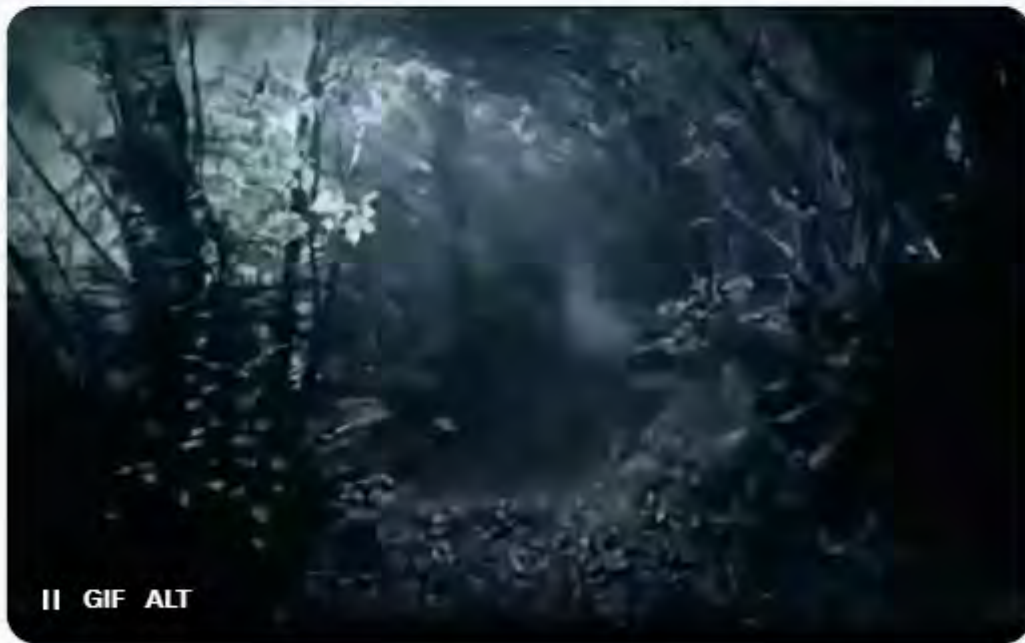
# Family Learning Festival

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LynseyCLD @CldLynsey · Oct 23, 2020

[#NLHalloweek](#) coincides with [#flfestival](#) Family Learning Festival so our team have devised a spooky woodland walk 🦋 The walks will be running at Seafar Woods on Tues & Thurs until 12 Nov. [@GlenmanorPS](#) P5 and up !!Booking essential!! For more info email [hughesl@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:hughesl@northlan.gov.uk) 🌲





# Step 3

# Skills for Life

# Unlock your potential

Find training, support and advice to gain the skills you need for the job you want

Get started



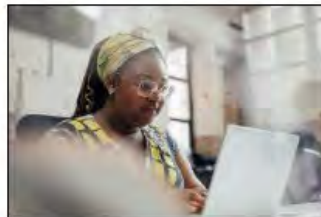
## Training Courses

All Classroom-based On-the-job Online Short courses



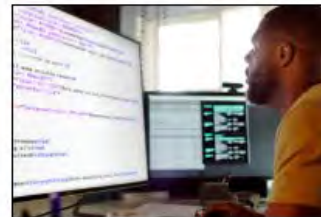
### Free Courses for jobs

If you don't have existing A levels (or equivalent), are unemployed or you earn



### Multiply

Multiply offers easy access to free numeracy courses where you can gain a



### Skills Bootcamps

Free, flexible courses of up to 16 weeks to build up sector-specific skills and fast-



### Digital - Essential Skills

If you do not have the essential digital



## Step 4

# Working in Partnership

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Half term fun  
for kids  
with  
**Dogs Trust!**



**Event Date: Tue 15th Feb 22**

**Event Time: 10.30-12.00**

Event address:  
Chertsey Library  
Guildford Street  
Chertsey  
Surrey KT16 9BE

**Event Date: Wed 16th Feb 22**

**Event Time: 10.30-12.00**

Event address:  
Banstead Library  
Bolters Lane  
Banstead  
Surrey SM7 2AW

**Book now via [Surrey Libraries UK Eventbrite!](#)**



- Local Authority Adult Education, Family Learning and Family Information Services
- Libraries, museums and art galleries
- Children's centres
- Schools and nurseries
- Local colleges and learning providers
- Local employers
- Community centres and organisations
- Cinemas
- Shopping centres
- City farms
- Zoos
- Science centres
- Wildlife charities



Step 5

Promotion



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[REGISTER YOUR EVENT](#)



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## Branding, Graphics and More



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# Family Learning



## Family Learning Festival

@flfestival Follows you

Family Learning Festival - 14 Oct - 5 Nov 2023. Celebrating a love of learning by [#InspiringCuriosity](#). [#FamilyLearningFestival](#)

 UK - national charity [familylearningfestival.com](#)  Joined May 2009

845 Following 593 Followers

# @flfestival



## No cost / low cost

- Word of mouth
- Consider where your audiences goes, can you put posters up their?
- What they read? Are there school or community newsletters you could include your events? A local paper that would run a story on your plans? Event listings for your local area, or mumsnet/mumbler?
- Who do they listen to? Do your local radio stations share events on air?
- Do you work with partners who could share the events with their families?



## Promotion tips

- Keep sentences short and organise in brief paragraphs
- Speak directly to your families, use 'you' and 'your',
- Avoid using fancy fonts as they can be difficult to read
- Repeating appropriate words can be helpful, so don't paraphrase too much.
- Use a readability test; search 'SMOG Calculator'



## Step 6

# Signposting and further learning



84% of organisations highlighted further learning opportunities as part of their activities.



## Step 7

Ensure your event  
is safe for all





On the day



# Step 8

# Evaluation

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## Partnership Agreement



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## Grants and Funding





What would you like to know?



John Beattie  
Deputy Director (Families), Campaign for Learning

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[@John\\_Beattie\\_](https://www.instagram.com/John_Beattie_)