

How the Home Learning Environment supports children's development – using the Peep Learning Together Programme with families

Babies and children are constantly developing and learning during everyday life with their family – whether or not they go to an early education and childcare setting. This is known as the 'home learning environment'. Research indicates that a positive home learning environment in the early years is one of the biggest influences on children's outcomes, right through to the end of secondary school.

When parents and carers realise the huge value of their own impact on their child's development - and the simple day-to-day things that they can do to help - it makes it easier to do these things more often.

How Peep supports the home learning environment

The evidence-based Peep Learning Together Programme was developed by the charity People. It provides child development ideas and low-cost activities, and information about how they help.

Peep-trained practitioners can share them with families - in groups, stay and plays, or 1-to-1. Peep sessions involve singing, stories, play activities and discussion linked to the Programme's five strands of learning:

Personal, social and emotional development

Communication and language

Early literacy

Early maths

Health and physical development



Here are some of the key home learning environment messages shared with parents/carers during Peep sessions
(while doing and discussing activities and ideas that help them fit into everyday life):

Research shows that the everyday things that you do together with your child make a real difference to their learning and development.

You can help your child by:

- listening and talking with them - lots!
- singing songs and rhymes
- sharing books and stories every day
- pointing out letters, words and sounds
- having fun making marks, drawing or writing
- pointing out signs or logos when you're out or at home
- talking about and playing with different numbers, shapes and colours
- going out and about - for example, to the park
- giving your child opportunities to play with other children.



Find out more:

[How the home learning environment helps children's development](#)

(including downloads of this leaflet and a short flyer containing the above messages)

The [Peep Learning Together Programme](#) focuses on valuing and building on the ways that parents and carers support their child's learning in everyday life. It is underpinned by the ORIM framework, developed by Professors Peter Hannon and Cathy Nutbrown at the University of Sheffield. They noticed that *all* parents provide their children with Opportunities, Recognition, Interactions & Modelling (ORIM) that support their learning, but that this is enhanced when parents understand more about how these things help.

At Peeple, we work directly with families in Oxfordshire, and we [train and support practitioners](#) from organisations around the UK and beyond.

[Evidence base:](#) Five independent studies have found that Peep:

- helps children develop strong foundations for language, literacy, and self-esteem - improving outcomes for all, but with the greatest impact on the most disadvantaged,
- successfully reaches families and engages them in their children's learning,
- helps parents become more aware of their children's development and how to foster it,
- contributes to parents' and children's confidence in themselves as learners, and to parents' employability,
- enables practitioners from a wide range of professions to develop new skills and fresh approaches to share ideas and unlock parents' potential.



Research references about the home learning environment:

Lehrl S, Evangelou M & Sammons P (2020) *The home learning environment and its role in shaping children's educational development, School Effectiveness and School Improvement*,
[31:1, 1-6, doi.org](#)

Melhuish E (2010) *Impact of the Home Learning Environment on child cognitive development: secondary analysis of data from 'Growing up in Scotland'* Scottish Government Social Research

Nutbrown C, Hannon P and Morgan A (2005) *Early literacy work with families: Policy, practice and research* London, Sage Publications Ltd

Roulstone S, Law J, Rush R, Clegg J and Peters T (2011) *Investigating the role of language in children's early educational outcomes* DfE- RR134

Sammons P, Toth K, Sylva K, Melhuish E, Siraj-Blatchford I and Taggart B (2015) *Pre-school and early home learning effects on A-level outcomes* (Effective Pre-School, Primary & Secondary Education Project - EPPSE) University of Oxford, DfE-RR472A



Find out more about:

- Peep Training for practitioners around the UK, Ireland and Australia Email: training@peeples.org.uk Tel 01865 397970
- Peep delivery for families in south Oxford
Email: families@peeples.org.uk Tel 01865 395145
- Peeples Learning Together Programme, Peep Antenatal Programme and Peep Progression Pathway (parent qualifications)

<https://peeples.org.uk/>