Workshops

In each of the areas Family Connections worked, we began by offering a programme of short weekly workshops on a variety of subjects including animation, music-making, film-making, internet safety, digital photography, creating e-cards and craft. Many were held during the day in school holidays, whilst others were held after-school or on Saturdays.

They discussed what families might like to do next and together we came up with exciting activities that also benefited the wider community.

These included:
• Setting up and running a Family Radio Station, broadcasting live on FM!
• Creating an online digital treasure hunt
• Hosting their own mini-Olympics and station, broadcasting live on FM!
• Finding out more about their local heritage

Making a list is a great community initiative, such as a community allotment scheme, later screened at a community learning day.

The first phase of Family Connections has now come to an end but our commitment to family learning continues. We continue to seek funds for activities and there is a wealth of resources that families can use to get in touch and get involved!

*Winner: Best Digital Discoverers Event 2011, presented by the Campaign for Learning and the Mayor of London.

Somerset Film

Somerset Film is a registered charity and social enterprise, dedicated to encouraging, facilitating and developing the use of moving image and digital technology.

We do this in a variety of ways, working with organisations, communities, individuals and across the county.

Teamwork

Karen Blackwell Project Co-ordinator Melody Miles Project Supporter Dave Richardson and Project Co-ordinator Phil Shepherd Facilitator Somerset Film

Tutors

James Birkett | Will Bos | Alastair Campbell Paul Collins | James Dean | Michael Howard Warren Luxford | James Price | Josh Randell Alex Richardson | Adam Shepherd Pete Sewell | Genna Williams |ippy Hardy

Partners and supporters
Art Council England | Big Lottery Fund | Buckfast School | Glastonbury Children’s Centre | Williton Community Hall | Williton School | Wool Hall | Yeovil Telephone Library in Williton, Highbridge, Taunton, Glastonbury, Yeovil and Bridgwater have taken the opportunity to have fun and learn about communication and digital technology. Together they became involved in a variety of events, activities, workshops and community projects.

“it’s a really brilliant idea... I took my elder son. It was well structured for families... Fun for kids and adults. My son was exceedingly proud to tell his friends that he posted on YouTube. He thought it was fantastic...”

info@familyconnections.org.uk

info@somersetfilm.com

Facebook | somersetfilm.com

Twitter | @somersetfilm

filmyourownlife.info | filmyourownlife.org.uk

 Somerset Film is proud to announce that it has been awarded by the Campaign for Learning and the Mayor of London. www.somersetfilm.com 01278 433172

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If you’d like a Family Connections workshop, event or community initiative in your area then get in touch. We can advise on everything from the benefits and logistics to promotion and cost – our evaluation shows that participants are prepared to pay for quality activity that really delivers. We will also continue to raise funds to be able to offer further family learning activity and welcome new partners.

“I work every hour to pay the mortgage and do nothing with the kids. I have recently had problems with my eldest child and it was FREE!”

“Family Connections isn’t just about having fun, though we make sure that’s a key part. It’s special because it is all family learning, which means that a parent, grandparent or adult carer learns alongside their child or children. Families told us the main reasons they attended were:

• to have fun
• to find something fun
• to find a shared family activity
• to help their children with learning
• develop new skills

It’s important to have fun things to do and to keep learning. When you are learning together with your children it puts you on a level playing field and this is really important...”

“You don’t need to have attended a Family Connections workshop to be able to borrow the equipment. If you’ve never used the equipment before, simply call our website where you can watch the online video guides we’ve created. The guides will take you through all you need to know to get you started. To find out more about what’s available visit our website, where you’ll find details of who to contact in your area, how to book and the equipment available. If you’d got really young children there are ‘Early Years’ adventure packs available at each of the area’s children’s centres. Contact your local centre to find out if they have any packs ready for gap days out, you’ll find robust digital toy ideas for small hands and designed to suit the way children play.

“My family would love to do this at home. It’s great for their imagination and they have all been smiling...”

These packs include stills and video cameras, CD-Rewritable CD-Rs, microwaves, phone, Talking Points and a talking photo frame, including basic camera technique, editing software and a glossary of terms and how they connect to raise funds. We can even point you in the direction of charge, to help you – equipment + software – that families can borrow, for example, our guide about ‘How to use glass, leave top UP, darken room,

No camera? Try scanography. Select a 3D item eg. toy, place on scanner and your family to work that families have created in our galleries. You will find a gallery of short films, animation, music and much more to see – all we know that when you’ve made your work and we will add you to it...”

You can also find our ‘Talk The Box’ who will generate ideas for projects you and your family to work together at all the events.

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