

Starting Reception



Case study: Tower Hamlets – A borough-wide approach to Starting Reception

Overview

Tower Hamlets is a diverse borough with a significant proportion of families for whom English is an additional language, notably Bengali and increasingly Mandarin. To support children's successful transition to school, the Early Help and Children and Families Service adopted the Starting Reception resource as a foundational element of its School Readiness Programme led and delivered by the Early Intervention Team.

Implementation

1) **Borough-wide distribution:** digital copies of the Starting Reception definition were distributed to all 65 primary schools and nursery providers in Tower Hamlets, ensuring universal access for families and practitioners.

2) **Direct engagement with schools:** the Early Intervention Team delivered 191 School Readiness sessions, reaching 3035 people (both in family hubs and within schools), providing hands-on support to embed the resource into school readiness activities. These sessions included direct work with individual families, workshops for parents and collaborative planning to tailor the definition to each school's context.

3) **Multilingual access and community engagement:** the translated resource was used to ensure that families could access the definition effectively. Bengali versions were prominently displayed and distributed in Family Hubs, Children and Family Centres and some schools.

Bengali speaking families were actively encouraged to access the Starting Reception website during screening sessions for targeted intervention and within the School Readiness Programme. This supported digital inclusion and accessibility for families.

4) **Themed sessions and tailored support:** the Starting Reception definition underpinned themed play sessions and workshops (e.g. toilet training, healthy routines, learning through play) delivered within Family Hubs, Children and Family Centres and co-located in schools.

Practitioners adapted the resource's recommendations to meet the needs of children with English as an additional language or SEND, ensuring inclusivity.

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Feedback and impact

Data collection systems were established to monitor family engagement with the School Readiness Programme. Feedback from schools and families is regularly gathered to inform ongoing improvements and ensure the resource remains relevant and effective.

The borough-wide approach, combined with targeted support for 15 schools has strengthened Early Intervention partnerships with schools and improved consistent School Readiness messages.

The multilingual resource has raised awareness amongst families who might otherwise face barriers to support. Families and practitioners report greater confidence in preparing children for school, resulting in smoother transitions and improved outcomes for children.

Conclusion

The implementation of the Starting Reception resource in Tower Hamlets Family Hubs has enabled a coordinated and inclusive approach to school readiness. By ensuring wide distribution, direct support, and language accessibility, the borough has empowered families and practitioners to give children the best possible start to their educational journey.

Family Hubs & Community House Workshops

Please fill in the form below if you would like to access the courses below
 Contact Jacqui or Karen 0207 987 4362 if you would like more information.
 Please find attached course flyers for information about each workshop

Parents Name/s	Child's Name	Contact Details	Notes

Please tick yes/no and which venue you would like to access the course

Course	Yes/No	Venue Cubitt Town Community House	Venue Isle of Dogs Family Hub
Family Hubs Little Talkers			
Family Hubs Explore & Connect			
Family Hubs Play & Connect			
Family Hubs School Readiness Workshops			
Family Hubs Learn & Connect			
Cubitt Town Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities			
Cubitt Town SEND Parents Network			
Cubitt Town Stay & Play			

This group is only available at the Isle of Dogs Family Hub

Family Hubs Social Connect Group: Yes or No

To view all of our courses available at the Community House please check out our website <https://sites.google.com/site/orp/cubitttownhouse/home>

Example of a referral form used by a Tower Hamlets School, demonstrating schools and families work together to request services.