

Science

Introduction

With your child you will set up experiments with the help and support of specialist staff. You do not need to have any scientific knowledge, just a curiosity for the world around you.

What will you learn?

During this course you will have the opportunity to:

- Set-up a range of experiments
- Record your results and discuss the different ways they can be presented in charts and tables
- Be shown how to write a scientific report in the correct style and format as outlined in the National Curriculum
- Discuss with qualified primary school teachers aspects of the science curriculum in primary schools
- Work with adult tutor and other parents to submit work towards accreditation

Who is this course aimed at?

Family Learning courses provide a unique opportunity for families to learn together and explore aspects of the National Curriculum from Year 1 up to Year 6. These courses are part funded by Birmingham Family Learning and are open to families with at least one child attending a Birmingham Primary School. All courses are held at either weekends or during school holidays in order to allow participation of both children and parents/guardians. The Family Learning Team welcomes enquiries from school and other organisations and will happily design courses to meet your group's needs.

What are the entry requirements? (If applicable)

There are no formal entry requirements for this course. Courses are aimed at parents with qualifications in up to Level 2.

How is it taught?

This course is divided into parent only and family sessions. During the parent only sessions you will have the opportunity to: look at, try and explore aspects of numeracy/literacy before working with your child during the family sessions. Each course is staffed with an adult tutor, primary school teacher and classroom assistant, will support you and your child throughout the course. You will be taught using a variety of learning methods. These include whole group work, small group work, independent work and question-and-answer techniques.

How will you be assessed?

During this course you will complete worksheets, take part in activities and discussions. All this work, along with pictures of you and your child taking part in activities will be organised into a portfolio, which you will hand-in at the end of the course. Teaching staff will support you to complete all work and to organise your portfolio.

The work you hand-in will be marked by your course tutor and be subject to internal and external moderation (moderation is similar to marking by an exam's officer). After your work is marked and moderated it will be returned to you with feedback from your tutor.

What will you achieve?

If you complete the course successfully you will achieve 3 Open College Network (OCN) Credits at Level 1 or 2. The OCN Credits you achieve are part of a national system for recognising and accrediting the learning you have undertaken on this course. Once you complete this course you can build the number of credits you have achieved by undertaking further short courses as detailed below.

What can you do after this?

It is recommended that you take all the other courses within the Skills for Life Pathway-Family Learning Courses, including spelling strategies, creating story sacks, writing skills, arithmetic strategies and making literacy games. Following a pathway will help you get the most out of coming to Fircroft College. What you learn on one course will help you on the next.

Who are the tutors?

Family Learning Courses are taught by three tutors: two adult adult tutors specialising in maths and English and a primary school teacher. Sam Lerner and Sue Darley specialise in teaching parents in college and diverse community settings and have a good working knowledge of maths and English taught in primary schools. They will support you in exploring the many and varied techniques your child is taught and is expected to use in school. Rosemary Aveyard is a qualified primary school teacher who is experienced in teaching children between 5 and 11 years and in a variety of schools in the Midlands area. All tutors readily encourage parents and children to share their existing understanding and skills with others in the group and to develop these skills in a supportive atmosphere.

When does it run?

This is a three day course which includes two nights residency at the College. Courses start at 5.30pm on the first day and finish between 3pm and 4pm on the third day. Please check our website or short course guide for course dates. Alternatively you can contact our Short Course office.

Is there a cost?

This course is FREE of charge. All accommodation, food, teaching & course materials costs are included.

How can you apply?

For more information please contact the short course office on 0121 472 0116 or email shortcourses@fircroft.ac.uk. You can apply online at www.fircroft.ac.uk, by post or in person.

