Their Future
Our Future

Family Learning in South Omaha

WHY HELP FAMILIES

Children of parents who do not speak at least some English are in academic danger.

WHY ACT NOW?
OMAHA RANKS #4 OUT OF 89
U.S. metropolitan areas — The growth of Spanish speaking families with limited English proficiency puts us near the top nationwide.

SOURCE: Brookings Institute, ACS 2000-2013

HOW CAN FAMILIES HELP?
ENGLISH COUNTS 10+ POINTS

National studies show children gain as much as 10 points in standardized testing when parents complete at least one year of classes to learn English.

SOURCE: National Center for Families Learning
Language, Learning and Poverty

Beneath the rich Latino culture that defines South Omaha, poverty holds children and families back.

**POPULATION DOUBLED**
**POVERTY TRIPLED**

27.6% of Latino families in the Omaha metro area live in poverty—that’s higher than the national average for Hispanic households and climbing.

What does that mean for school age children in South Omaha?

$453 is the maximum weekly income for a Latino family of four living in poverty.


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**Top Reasons Children Succeed**

- Parents speak some English
- Parents read to their children
- Families expect children to go to college

**SOURCE:** National Center for Families Learning

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How do we know that Family Learning helps children succeed in school?

**PROOF:**

**STRONG INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS**

Our Family Learning program is on the success track. The UNMC Munroe-Meyer Institute guides a team culture of continuous program improvement. With established measures of success, children and families are making gains. Research shows family learning programs lead to better test scores, improved attendance and stronger vocabulary.

**2 YEARS OF PROVEN IMPACT**

What are the early outcomes so far?

- Students dramatically improve reading, writing and verbal skills
- Parents get involved in their local schools
- Families confidently use community resources like the library
- Home routines support learning

**LONG TERM SUCCESS MEASURES—WHAT’S NEXT?**

We’ll follow parents and children to fully understand the impact on student achievement. Key measures include:

- Evaluate the parent role in their child’s learning starting in kindergarten
- Assess student proficiency in NESA scores starting in grade 3

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**GOAL**

More parents prepared to help their children succeed in school.
How do we guarantee success?

**BY HELPING PARENTS**

be their child’s most important teacher.

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**FAMILY LEARNING**

For seven hours every week, our parents are in classes because they want to make a difference in their children’s education. Many are learning how to navigate our school system for the first time.

In our center, that means parenting workshops, English classes designed for parents and coaching to help parents connect with their local schools.

**VALUABLE ROUTINES TO LEARN**

- Reading as a family
- Using family calendars
- Helping with homework

**ENGLISH FOR PARENTS**

In our classes, parents learn the English they need to become active and involved in their child’s education.

We help parents become more confident in talking to teachers and asking important questions about their child’s progress.

**TYPICAL CLASS TOPICS**

- Preparing for teacher conferences
- Using computers to access school information
- Writing notes to a child’s teacher

**NAVIGATOR COACHING**

Learning something new and making it a part of family life is hard work. Our educational navigators are a supportive bridge between our classrooms and the real world.

With encouragement and home visits, families rapidly gain confidence. When families face new challenges, navigators respond with special classes and workshops.

**COMMON CONCERNS**

- How do parents working late night shifts stay involved in school work?
- How can parents help a child struggling in school?

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**FAMILIES IN CRISIS**

A crisis within a family interferes with a child’s ability to learn. Sometimes, young children end up in academic danger.

Family Liaisons bring special training to our center. They connect families and children to helpful community resources.

With more stability at home, most students are back on track in school within 90 days.

**COMMON ISSUES FOR FAMILIES**

- Chronic illness
- Loss of employment
A LEARNING COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP WITH
ONEWORLD COMMUNITY
HEALTH CENTERS
A TRUSTED LEAD PARTNER
Families in our South Omaha center trust the team from OneWorld. The learning environment is comfortable, secure and friendly. With a dedicated teaching team, children and their families build connections to their local schools.

GOAL
Proven programs to help children and families succeed in education.

Learning Community Center of South Omaha
The former South Omaha library at 23rd and M streets is like a familiar friend — with the business district on one side and the South High stadium on the other. Most days, our classrooms are filled with parents. They’re here because they want their children to succeed in school.

Why Family Learning?
MIDWESTERN STUDY CONFIRMS VALUE
The results of a 6-year study of migrant families show that Family Learning programs have lasting and proven value. Researchers following children from kindergarten through sixth grade compared students in the program to those who were not. By the end of first grade, students from participating families scored significantly higher than their peers.

DID THE GAINS LAST? In the 5th and 6th grades, the same students again scored significantly higher.

Building on Community
Engaging parents to help their children gets great results. The Omaha metro area has much to offer families with school age children. By recruiting strong partners, we’re helping families gain valuable learning experiences with Omaha’s best! Generous community partners make a proven Family Learning program even stronger.

Proven programs to help children and families succeed in education.

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RESOURCE: School Community Journal, 2012

IN THEIR WORDS
NORMA MARTINEZ
“This program helped me and helped my kids. I want to learn so that my children can go to the university.”

DELCE ACOSTA
“With better English, I can help with homework more and talk to their teachers. I want to do everything I can to help my boys in school.”

“I’VE SEEN THE IMPROVEMENTS”
“Parents in this program gain the confidence to get visibly involved in our school. The result is children who are successful, respectful and motivated to learn. They know their parents back them!”

~ Sharon Royers
OPS Principal, Indian Hill Elementary
MISSION  
Together with school districts and community organizations as partners, we demonstrate, share and implement more effective practices to measurably improve educational outcomes for children and families in poverty.

VISION  
That all children within the Learning Community achieve academic success without regard to social or economic circumstance.