



Key Driver 3: Parents Supporting Learning Phonics workshop

Before working with Parentkind

The school had an open door policy once a week where parents could stay with their children to read. Although this was effective in some cases, it was not a suitable option for working parents. This was also the only opportunity for parents to come into the school. Following Parentkind's Blueprint audit report and recommendations, the school was signposted to Doncaster Council's Adult, Family and Community Learning team (AFCL).

What happened?

- AFCL were invited to deliver a Phonics course to parents of children in Year 1. Although it was open to all parents, the school sent individual invitations to some parents of children needing targeted support.
- AFCL set up a five week phonics course – two sessions were delivered on site and then moved to online learning due to the coronavirus pandemic lockdown. In the sessions at school, parents learnt how to say the phonics sounds correctly, discussed why reading practise at home is so important, took part in a listening walk, and took part in a group ball game practising phonics sounds

- Distance learning included a range of activities they could do at home, such as a phonics treasure hunt, activities promoting the use of nursery rhymes, puzzles and games, and a reading challenge

What was the result?

- Eight parents took part in the school-based workshops with two of them engaged in further distance learning
- The ones who continued said that they had found the course helpful and enjoyed the activities with one of these parents now volunteering at school with a view to seeking employment in a school setting in the future. This meant that staff/parents relationships were strengthened
- More parents were able to support with home learning tasks as they understood the importance of the activities

Challenges

- Engaging parents with distance learning. Different strategies were used to keep the learning going such as sending work through the post, by email and setting up a google classroom, but further engagement was low.



@PTAExpertbyParentkind



@Parentkind



info@parentkind.org.uk



@Parentkind.org.uk



parentkind.org.uk



0300 123 5460