

FAMILIES FOR LITERACY

What is Families for Literacy (FFL)?

Families for Literacy is a component of the Literacy Plus Program. Its purpose is to prevent the cycle of illiteracy through pre-literacy services to families that include illiterate or low-literate adults with young children. Through various activities, FFL gives families a chance to develop the love for reading early in the child's life. One of the goals of FFL is to get books into the hands of the families involved so parents can enjoy them with their children. By encouraging participants to read as a family, we are building a more literate world.



Who is it for?

Literacy Plus learners who have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or foster children under the age of five are welcome in the FFL program. If there are older children (up to age 12) in the same family, they are also a part of FFL. Learner's find out about the program when they come for their initial meeting at the Literacy Plus office.

What does an FFL event look like?

One Saturday each month, the families meet for a story time at the library. A Children's Librarian reads stories, which is followed by a craft activity and snack time. Parents learn about reading to their kids and how to make the most out of their family reading time at home. Every child who comes gets a free book to take home and keep. There are other opportunities for children to receive free books each month. Eventually, families have a collection of high-quality literature to build their own home libraries.

How do I know if my learner is part of FFL?

You are an FFL tutor if your learner has children in his or her extended family under the age of five. We will let you know when we give you the initial information about your learner.

How is FFL relevant to my tutoring?

- Encourage your learner to come to story times and other FFL events. Come with him or her if possible.
- Use the books your learner gets at story time to practice reading. Help parents read to their children at home.
- Review the Parent & Child magazine, which is available in the Literacy Plus Office, with your learner. Use the suggestions that are included with the magazine.
- Talk with your learner about the importance of reading with the whole family.

FAMILIES FOR LITERACY PROGRAM

The California State Library offers grants to existing library literacy programs for family literacy activities. The U.S. Department of Education reported, “The single most important activity for building the knowledge required for eventual success in reading is reading aloud to children.” The Families for Literacy (FFL) program helps the parent in their role as the child’s first teacher.

The FFL program addresses four content areas:

1. Improvement of the learner’s literacy skills
2. Helping the learner-parent develop the literacy needs of their child
3. Information in parent education
4. Activities that promote adults and children reading together

Your role as the tutor is central to the program. You know your learner best, and meet regularly to increase your learner’s literacy skills. When you use quality children’s books with your learner you are helping them improve their reading aloud skills, expand their vocabulary, modeling a skill they can take home and share with their children, and taking an important step in breaking the cycle of illiteracy. Children with illiterate parents are twice as likely as their peers to grow up to be illiterate adults.

The FFL program at Literacy Plus offers the following activities:

- Monthly storytimes for learners and their children under the age of five
- Free books at all storytimes
- Free birthday books
- Free book after learner has read to their child 20 times (reading calendars)
- Free monthly parenting magazines
- Learner-parent workshops
- Tutor in-services
- Parent education information
- Special events!!

Any learner with a young child (usually under the age of five) qualifies for the program. Grandchildren and nieces and nephews are also welcome. Siblings up to the age of ten also receive free books at storytimes.

Encourage your learner to attend storytimes and read to their child daily. The results will continue generation after generation!

