



Engaging Parents in their children's learning
Bring a Parent to School

The support that parents give to their children is vital in determining children's attainment - in fact parental involvement accounts for the greatest variance in pupil performance across all social classes and ethnic groups.

Our **Bring a Parent to School** initiative is a tried and tested approach that is successfully influencing what parents do at home with their children.

It's simple and straight-forward - and it works. In many schools and classes more than 70% of parents are taking part.

Bring a Parent to School has been developed from the Inspire programme in Birmingham



How it works

- The class teacher and children invite a parent* to participate in a class lesson
- Parents participate in a practical lesson that focuses on English or maths (directly or indirectly)
The lesson involves making or doing something with their child
- This happens in **every** class at least once a year
- That's it! Yes it is that SIMPLE!

*Parent - any adult who cares for the child e.g. carers, grandparents, aunts, uncles or older siblings

How we can help you with the initiative

In order to support schools to **plan, deliver, monitor** and **evaluate** their **Bring a Parent to School** initiative we have put developed a training package that includes:

- An introduction for Headteachers/local authority staff (for up to 30 people)
- School based INSET (1 hour, so can be delivered in a staff meeting)
- A guidance pack, that include detailed advice, ideas for activities and model documents, and a DVD of the programme in action



Why it works so well for schools

Bring a Parent to school:

- is simple and robust enough to work every time
- is sustainable, with little extra cost for the school or bureaucracy for the teachers
- works for large number of parents from all communities
- is successful in involving fathers
- has improved partnership with parents
- has increased parents engagement in their children's learning in home activity
- is enjoyed by parents, children and teachers
- raises attainment

Why it works so well for parents

Parents want to take part because:

- it involves their own child
- they get to see their class teacher in action and get to know them better
- they and their children work together
- it helps them understand what their children are learning – particularly in English and Maths
- it takes place in an informal fun & welcoming atmosphere
- it involves them in practical activities that everyone can join in
- it includes something to take home – a ‘goody bag’
- it is a special occasion, and fun
- they get to meet other parents



What schools are saying

“It’s been a great success, the parents want it offered more often” Headteacher

“Our ‘Bring a Parent to School’ event was a real success. It gave the parents an opportunity to see the quality of teaching and learning taking place at our school, and to see how hard the children are working and how well behaved and focussed they are” Headteacher

“We don’t usually have dads coming to things - so we were really surprised when so many of them turned up. It was amazing!” Teacher

“We should have more days like that. It was a really positive experience for the children, parents and the teacher.” Teacher

“The session was excellent and really positive. The children really benefitted from having a parent present, and the parents really enjoyed it too.” Teacher

“I didn’t think I would enjoy it so much”. Teacher



What parents and pupils saying

“I had a brilliant time. It was fun. I’m even interested now in becoming a volunteer” – Parent

“It was really good having my mum at school to help me and I can take home my ‘Incy Wincy Spider’”- Pupil

“I wish my dad could come into school more often – it was really fun having him help me” - Pupil

Finding out more

Schools and Local Authorities interested in developing Bring a Parent to School should contact

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Costs: £250 per half-day

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