



INTERGENERATIONAL LEARNING & FAMILY LITERACY

World Education: A Holistic Family-Based Approach to Literacy

Research shows that the impact of family literacy and intergenerational learning activities is significant. Children benefit through increased time with parents, improved language skills, increased interest in books, and increased enjoyment of reading. Parents benefit by gaining increased self-esteem, confidence, literacy competence, parental efficacy, and interest in their own education and better understanding of the important role that parents play in their children's education. Communities benefit through strengthened connections between families, schools, and other institutions, as well as vitalized neighborhood networks, leading to social cohesion and community development.

What is Intergenerational Learning?

Intergenerational learning involves an agreement between people from different generations to learn together. It is a **learning partnership** that is based on reciprocity and mutuality when people from different generations work together to gain and share skills, values and knowledge. True intergenerational learning results in learning outcomes for each person, no matter their age or generation.

Conversation is critical to intergenerational learning

Regularly engaging in family conversations is a key component of intergenerational learning in the Egypt Literate Village. Conversations link literacy skills with content and subject learning. Conversations benefit families in myriad ways, all of which improve reading skills and generate lifelong and life-wide learning perspectives:

Benefit 1: Conversations about topics of significance to the family promote vocabulary development. The best way to expand one's vocabulary is by hearing and using new words in daily life.

Benefit 2: Conversation helps readers understand a variety of sentence structures. These, like new words, can be learned best by hearing the same idea expressed in different ways as part of everyday living.

Benefit 3: Conversation can help an adult or child learner become accustomed to learning about unfamiliar things. By engaging fully in conversation, the adult or child learner must feel confident enough to ask questions about what she is learning or reading, and to synthesize new knowledge with what she already knows. Regular conversations introduce children and adults to new ideas and information.

World Education: Intergenerational Learning & Family Literacy

What is Family Literacy?

Family literacy is a type of intergenerational learning during which family members facilitate their reading sessions together. No one is in charge; everyone is involved. Family members read and think about what they are reading and the pictures in the book, talk about what text and pictures communicate, and, if they have a question or a disagreement, re-read the pages they are discussing. Family literacy activities are successful when family members enjoy listening to each other's reading and each other's ideas about unfamiliar vocabulary, the book, the pictures, and topics that arise from reading together.



Research shows that:

1. The more that people read, the better readers they become;
2. The more they enjoy what they read, the better they learn to read and the better they understand what they're reading;
3. The more they talk with others about what they read, the more they learn about how to read, as well as to understand what they're reading;
4. The more they see other people reading, the more highly they value reading and the more they want to read well;
5. The better readers they become, the more they are able to think about new things, solve problems and analyze ideas.

Reading is not just a skill for the classroom. Reading is a skill for life, and the family is the best place to help people develop and practice this skill in a productive

Results from Implementing in Egypt

World Education piloted an Intergenerational Learning and Family Literacy Model that worked primarily through mothers to establish family literacy and intergenerational learning practices. Women who participated in our program were **2.75x more likely to read to their children** and **2.38x more likely to teach their children how to read and write**. Furthermore, when participating families were interviewed at the end of their participation, they shared that they experienced many other benefits, such as improved communication and relationships between family members, increased value for education, better academic performance for children, and increased involvement of parents in school activities.

By adopting a mindset toward intergenerational learning and family literacy, women and children trained in intergenerational learning and family literacy developed the necessary skills to become lifelong and life-wide learners, thinkers, and participants in the life of the community. By becoming strong readers and learners, they now benefit their households and communities, by improving their situations economically and socially.