



THE READING AGENCY

Delivering a Family Reading Challenge with The Reading Agency

PLA Conference 2022

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CHALLENGE**

The Reading Agency

Tackling Life's Big Challenges Through the Proven Power of Reading

We focus on:

- Connected Communities
- Life Skills and Learning
- Health and Well-being

And work in partnership to deliver programmes where they are most needed

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Family Reading Challenge – Project Aims

- Provide support to improve adult literacy and communication skills
- Promote joint reading as a way to maintain family connections and support prisoners' mental health
- Encourage peer-to-peer activity to promote the benefits of reading.

Resources

- For children:
Summer Reading Challenge Pack, books to read, completion rewards
- For parents:
Reading diary, info leaflet, completion certificate, Quick Read book, feedback form, [peer toolkit]
- For staff:
Delivery toolkit, selection of support resources, evaluation form

Who was involved in the pilot?

- 2 prisons – HMP Oakwood and HMP Featherstone
29 parents and at least 31 children took part
- Other community settings now trialing the model

How does it work?

- Combines two well-established programmes
 - Reading Ahead (supporting emergent adult readers)
 - Summer Reading Challenge (incentivised RfP programme for 4-11 yr olds)
- Parents and children read together during visits/ calls
- Both complete bespoke support resources during the challenge
- Parents reflect on sessions and access peer support
- Parents and children both receive rewards for taking part

Evaluation of the pilot

- External evaluation of the pilot
- Aims of the evaluation:
 - Understand the impact of the programme
 - Gain learnings from the process to improve in future
- Data collected from participants and prison staff members

Evaluation findings: Impact

- Increased engagement with reading amongst both children and parents
- Improved meaningful connections between parents and children
- Encouraged peer-to-peer support
- Enhanced participant-staff relationships

Evaluation findings: Learnings

- Where the programme is 'homed' within the prison setting and who leads it makes a difference
- The Family Reading Challenge needs to be adaptable to different circumstances and frequent change
- Development of staff peer networks across prisons to share ideas and support delivery

Group Discussion Task

- What are your priorities for family engagement and learning?
- How might a family reading challenge work in your setting?
- What would you need to make it happen?

FEEDBACK TO THE GROUP

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Resources and further information

- Reading programmes and campaigns for adults

www.readingagency.org.uk/adults

- Register your interest to receive the Family Reading Challenge evaluation report

readingahead@readingagency.org.uk

Any Questions?

Questions after the event can be sent to:
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