

FAMILY LEARNING and ENGLISH LESSONS:

If you would like to learn English with your children or find out ways in which you can help your children with their schoolwork, there are free courses available in many areas. Ask the school. There are many places that run classes. Most further education colleges run English classes which are usually free.

Your employer may arrange English classes for you at one of the centres or at your place of work. They may also allow you to take a couple of hours off every week to go to classes.

CHILDREN with DISABILITIES or with SPECIAL NEEDS:

There is help available for children with 'special needs' such as a physical disabilities, learning difficulties, or psychological problems. Wherever possible, your child will be given extra help in a mainstream school.

YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 1619:

Between the ages of 16 and 19, young adults are entitled to both free education, and free ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes. After the age of 19 there might be some fees payable if they wish to continue studying. They may be eligible for work-based learning as well.

You can find out about ESOL classes at your local college or library.

If you want to go to university, your local school or college may be able to help you to apply.

ADULT EDUCATION, TRAINING and EMPLOYMENT:

After the age of 16 you can apply to go into further or higher education. You may be offered a free place if you meet the entry requirements, but you will usually have to pay fees. You will not normally have to pay for English classes or for basic skills or vocational courses. You can attend courses in adult education colleges, further education colleges or universities.

LIBRARIES:

Libraries will let you borrow books, music and videos, look up information and use a computer. There are libraries in many towns and some places have mobile libraries. To borrow books you need a library card, which is free. Anyone can apply for a library card, but the library usually asks to see proof of your name and address. If you do not have a fixed address, they may accept a host address (e.g. the place where you work). The library will post your card to this address. In most libraries there are a few books in languages other than English. These usually include Chinese French, Spanish, German, Italian, and some in Polish, Portuguese, Russian, and Czech. If you ask your local library for books in your own language, they should be able to arrange to get some for you. Libraries also have books for children, and run the BookStart project which gives books to parents to new babies. Call 020 8516 2977 for details. They can arrange for books in English or other languages.