



National Center for Family Literacy Becomes National Center for Families Learning

Organization Launches Families Learning Summit, Announces Holly Robinson Peete as Keynote Speaker

LOUISVILLE, KY, Nov 1, 2013 - Today, the [National Center for Families Learning](http://www.familieslearning.org) (NCFL), formerly the National Center for Family Literacy, reveals its new name and resources, adding to an already robust set of tools that supports all who make learning successful -- children, parents and educators.

As creator of National Family Literacy Day® and Month®, NCFL kicks off this celebration today with a nod to its past and a steady look to the future by evolving the way literacy is perceived -- as skills that exist on a continuum and fulfill the modern-day requirement of lifelong learning. NCFL believes learning does not end with becoming literate -- lifelong learning is crucial for success, opportunity and economic prosperity.

True to the organization's roots, the idea of moving from literacy to learning came from families enrolled in family literacy programs: learning is a positive, active and ongoing experience, and families enroll in programs to learn something specific -- how to read, get a better job or help their children with homework and beyond.

"Literacy will always be a cornerstone of what we do," said Sharon Darling, president and founder of NCFL, "and this move to learning is about being more inclusive and strengthening ties with the families and communities we serve by bringing our mission to life in everyday language."

NCFL continues to champion foundational concepts like Parent and Child Together (PACT) Time® and remains tightly connected to supporting parents and children working to improve basic literacy skills. NCFL reinforces its position as an ideal partner for families and educators alike with its new name and a host of resources available online, including the organization's new site, www.familieslearning.org, and the popular www.Wonderopolis.org.

"NCFL's foundation is the perfect springboard to explore new approaches and tools responsive to today's times. We look forward to many more announcements in the coming months," said Emily Kirkpatrick, NCFL's vice president.

Additional announcements

- In recognition of growing interest in intergenerational approaches to learning among diverse audiences, including educators, libraries, local government leaders and philanthropists, NCFL also announces a new tool for educators and advocates of families and education called Families and Learning NOW.
- Families and Learning NOW is a weekly curation of relevant literacy and learning news, research findings and emerging best practices in family learning, hand-selected by NCFL to inform increasing interest in intergenerational learning efforts.
- The Goodling Institute for Research in Family Literacy at Penn State University provides support for Families and Learning NOW.

Families Learning Summit and National Conference on Family Literacy

- NCFL's national convening is now known as Families Learning Summit & National Conference on Family Literacy. The event will bring family engagement in education to life for attendees

with a diverse array of content, contributors and participants.

- The National Conference on Family Literacy will continue to offer a dedicated forum where the family literacy community can once again count on the valuable experience established in the 22-year history of the event. The Families Learning Summit infuses a wider lens on NCFL's National Conference on Family Literacy and will bring family engagement to life for attendees next February in Washington, D.C.
- The Families Learning Summit provides a valuable place for families, media and education professionals to connect over a shared passion for cultivating skills that lead to academic and overall life success.
- The Summit moves beyond traditional literacy programming, elevating the experience with:
 - sessions related to emerging research, policy insights, family engagement and academic standards
 - marquee speakers
 - activities that illustrate learning in action using community assets such as libraries and museums
 - and exploration of Washington, D.C.
- Celebrity keynote speaker, parent and education and literacy advocate Holly Robinson Peete will be the Summit's keynote speaker.
- NCFL welcomes the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop as a new Summit partner.
- "NCFL has always been a leader in involving diverse families in the learning process. They are truly the 'best in the field' in creating digital tools to improve outcomes for families, communities and educators, and the Summit is another example of their commitment to supporting the most vulnerable in our society," said Michael Levine, executive director of the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop.
- Updates will be available on www.familieslearning.org for conference information as the date approaches.

About the National Center for Families Learning

The National Center for Families Learning (NCFL) is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to helping adults and children learn together. NCFL creates and deploys innovative programs and strategies that support learning, literacy and family engagement in education. From the classroom to the community to the digital frontier, NCFL collaborates with educators, advocates and policy-makers to help families construct hotspots for learning wherever they go. For more information on NCFL's 24-year track record, visit www.familieslearning.org.

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