

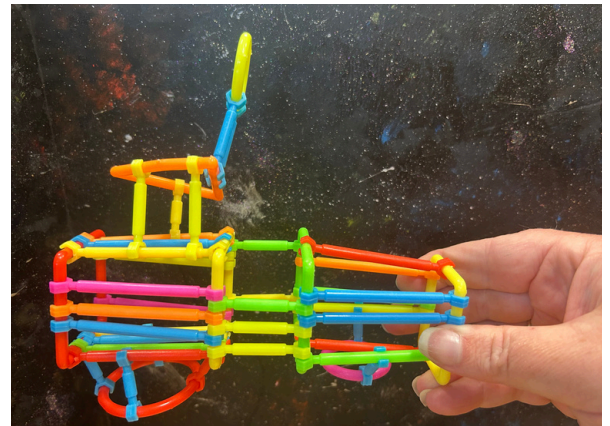
Learning Services Worcestershire

Shortlisted for the Family Learning to Support STEM Award

About Learning Services Worcestershire

[Learning Services Worcestershire](#), part of Worcestershire County Council's Skills & Employability Service, is an adult and family education provider supporting around 1,000 learners each year. The service aims to help families boost their skills, learn within their communities, and unlock their full potential.

Its Family Learning programme was developed as a post-pandemic strategy to rebuild connections with Worcestershire's schools, with a focus on wellbeing, literacy, numeracy, and most recently, STEM. The new Solar System and Beyond course was launched to extend the family learning journey while embedding key science, technology, engineering, and maths skills.



Family Learning STEM: Solar System and Beyond

Solar System and Beyond is an intergenerational STEM course designed to ignite curiosity and build confidence in both adults and children. Delivered in schools across Worcestershire, it blends hands-on science activities with real-world maths applications and creative engineering challenges.

Each session takes families on a journey through the planets using imaginative and interactive methods that demystify complex concepts and connect STEM learning to everyday life. Parents begin each session by painting the planet being explored, taking part in quizzes, and discussing the NHS '5 Ways to Wellbeing'.



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Families explore topics such as magnetic forces, storms, and chemical reactions, using everyday objects to understand planetary scale. Music, literature and mindfulness are also incorporated to inspire creativity and support memory retention. Learners capture their personal progress through reflective scrapbooks and 'Can-do' assessments.

The course was developed to support Worcestershire's wider skills agenda—particularly in response to local STEM workforce shortages and the priorities outlined in the Worcestershire Skills Report. It also aligns with the Skills for Life: Multiply programme by embedding real-world numeracy and career-related learning throughout.

Impact and next steps

In Term 2, 86% of learners achieved all intended outcomes—demonstrating the value of STEM (especially numeracy), engaging in critical thinking and problem-solving, and understanding the connection between learning and wellbeing. Learners' scrapbooks, evaluations, and 'five-finger feedback' sessions provided rich qualitative insights, while individual learning plans and progression data tracked learners into further numeracy courses or employment-linked pathways.

The course has broadened Learning Services Worcestershire's reach, attracting new demographics including male learners and families from underrepresented backgrounds. The innovative use of school-based Family Learning Link Workers has enabled inclusive, personalised outreach and sustained engagement.

As one tutor reflected:

"Our STEM Family Learning course is incredibly beneficial for both parents and children. We also prepare children for a future where STEM skills are highly valued, while encouraging parents and carers to consider career opportunities in the STEM field."

Looking ahead, Learning Services Worcestershire will build on this success by further integrating career guidance, digital skills, and inclusive content—shaped by ongoing learner feedback and collaboration with community partners.

The team will also continue using school-based courses to encourage adults to consider their next steps—signposting to other learning opportunities across Worcestershire that can support their skills, employability, and wellbeing. A key priority remains helping parents understand how good mental health supports their capacity to learn and grow.