

**Fun for All the Family? – Family Learning in Museums**  
**15 March 2006**  
**Manchester Art Gallery**

Ninety people attended this workshop at Manchester Art Gallery.

**Understanding families**

Gerri Morris, Morris Hargreaves MacIntyre

Gerri presented an overview of Morris, Hargreaves, Mcintyre's research into families' motives, behaviour and perceptions of museums. This research is summarised in their report, 'Families Digest: empirical research into museums and galleries visiting by family audiences' (2005 available on their website [www.lateralthinkers.com](http://www.lateralthinkers.com)).

**How can museums help DfES to ensure Every Child Matters?**

Jenny Gomes, Regional Manager for Sure Start & Children's Fund, Government Office North West

Jenny gave an overview of the changes in children's services being brought about by Every Child Matters and Youth Matters. She urged museum staff to get in touch with the new Children's Centres in order to establish the contribution museums can make to achieve the five outcomes of Every Child Matters.

**Family learning at National Museums Liverpool**

Kate Johnson, Senior Learning Officer, Art Galleries

Kate described the Walker Art Gallery's recently opened "Big Art for Little Artists Gallery". This new facility for young children and their families has been designed through close consultation with families, artists and education professionals and is closely linked with the Walker's collections.

**Working with people outside conventional families**

Katy McCall, Gallery Educator and Artist

Mike Brownrigg and Heidi Hamnett, Residential Childcare Worker from Broome House Looked After Children's Home

Katy talked about the Image and Identity project which she ran with Broome House Looked After Children's Home and Manchester Art Gallery. This was an opportunity for young people who do not live in conventional families to work with a gallery. Mike and Heidi, childcare workers from Broome House talked about the project from their perspective. They said it was valuable for them to come along to the gallery as equals with the young people whereas they are usually the authoritative person in charge.

**What's in it for me?**

Zoe Renilson, Family Programmes Manager, Manchester City Galleries

Zoe described the ways in which Manchester Art Gallery is trying to encourage more families to use the gallery. She argued that when parents and carers visit museums or galleries for the first time

they, above all, don't want to be "shown up". She talked about ways in which family visitors can be put at ease straight away so that their visit is enjoyable and they will want to come back again.

### **Families with under-fives – learning provision at the Museum of Science & Industry In Manchester**

Lea Johnson, Education & Interpretation Officer, Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester

Lea described the long term work of the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester with young families, in particular their Experitots initiative.

### **Group discussions**

In the afternoon participants discussed in small groups the issues raised by the speakers.

### **How to find out more**

If you would like to find out more about family learning or would like to contact the speakers, please get in touch with:

Myna Trustram  
Research manager  
Renaissance North West  
Manchester Art Gallery, Mosley Street, Manchester M2 3JL

Tel 0161 235 8849  
email [m.trustram@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:m.trustram@manchester.gov.uk)