

A guide to Skills and Learning Opportunities in East Cambridgeshire



Learning Partnership
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough



East Cambridgeshire Learning Partnership believes that learning throughout life can bring definite benefits, and we wholeheartedly support everyone in becoming and staying a learner.

We believe that taking part in learning can

- improve your physical and mental well-being
- have a positive effect on family life and communication between generations
- motivate you to take part in civic and community life
- enhance your employment and work prospects.

This document explains what learning activities are available in East Cambridgeshire to all residents and provides links to the various websites that can help your search for the right type of learning and the right provider of that learning.



Here are some of the choices for learning (For compulsory education 5 – 16 yrs see www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

- **Adult education**
- **Computer based learning**
- **Family learning**
- **General interest, hobbies and culture**
- **Pre-school learning and play**
- **Specialist learning and training for adults with special needs**
- **Skills for Life**
- **Sports and leisure**
- **Volunteering**
- **Work based learning**

Information and advice about learning is widely available in East Cambridgeshire. Your starting point is the local library, where you can ask about:

- courses
- childcare
- compulsory schooling
- Connexions service for young people
- job centre services
- learndirect
- local events such as meetings, book clubs, film shows, societies
- Nextstep services for improving career and qualification prospects
- and any questions you have about learning

(also see eastcambs.gov.uk
nextstepcambs.org.uk
jobcentreplus.gov.uk)



There is a tradition of community adult learning in East Cambridgeshire and all the links you need to local **colleges, schools and universities** can be found in our provider database

Many people use computers for learning these days, and East Cambs On Line provides access to basic **training on computers** if you need to get started.

Libraries also give you free internet access and can help get you started on learning.

Learndirect (www.learndirect.co.uk) is another place you can find out more, or go to our **Learning database**



Learning at work

Training and learning at work is very common in all companies nowadays. East Cambridgeshire companies are no exception, and you can expect to get involved. If there isn't a training programme at work, then have a look at the Train to Gain website (www.traintogain.gov.uk) to see if it's any help.

Family learning is successful in East Cambridgeshire. As the name implies, various members of a family and their friends will learn together, for example a sports activity.



General interest, hobbies and culture

All sorts of museums, clubs and societies advertise in libraries, local notice boards and shops. And there are tremendous opportunities for learning through something you really enjoy doing.

www.adec.org.uk is the local website that will help you find a range of arts activities and shows.



Pre-school (0 - 5 years) services provide childcare advice and a range of health, parent and family services.

Opportunity Links (www.opportunity-links.org.uk) provides comprehensive information about:

- childminders
- nannies and other home-based child carers
- day nurseries
- nursery schools and classes
- pre-school and playgroups
- Surestart children's centres
- school-based childcare.

www.childcarelink.gov.uk provides a range of information and links for childcare questions.

Specialist learning and training for adults with special needs

There are a number of organisations that help adults with special needs in East Cambridgeshire, including social enterprises and community organisations.

Skills for Life

If you need help with English language or numeracy skills any library can point you in the right direction.

Sports and leisure

Sports centres and clubs are a great way to learn new skills and meet new people. East Cambridgeshire has a specialist sports service at www.sportsdec.org.uk.

Volunteering is a good method of getting involved and giving something back to your community. It can lead to other things – even paid work, and there will often be training offered. Our web pages offer more details about the local agencies.

