

Practice profile:

Jeannie Mackenzie, convener of the [Scottish Network for Parental Involvement in Children's Learning \(SNIPCL\)](#), talks about how working with families can support pupils.

How does your day begin? Full breakfast or coffee on the run?

It's a very long day! Everyone involved in managing SNIPCL is a volunteer; we have no paid staff. Most of us work full time on other tasks, so a typical volunteer will be working in the evening or the weekend in their own time to promote the network.

What does SNIPCL do?

The Network promotes, supports and develops professional practice in the involvement of parents and carers in their children's learning.

What is unique or particularly good about the work your organisation does?

We are the only organisation in Scotland which supports professionals working directly in the field of parental involvement as well as those working indirectly such as health visitors, teachers and librarians. SNIPCL unites workers who are often isolated, sharing good practice and providing mutual support through our popular annual conference (*see photo*). This year we are also hosting an annual lecture – more details [here](#). We are frequently consulted by the Scottish Government and national agencies and contribute to research and development in the field.



Tell us a story from your front-line work.

Parents and pupils at Lockerbie Primary School made 300 Memory Books together in Spring this year. We worked with a Family Learning Coordinator, an English Teacher and a Depute Head Teacher. Every Friday morning or evening groups of parents participated in creative writing sessions. All parents and carers had opportunities to write poems about their children and to write about hopes and dreams for their future. Children were delighted when asked to take home their parents' homework! For those who were interested in researching their family histories, sessions were organised at the Town Library.

Although some parents at the start of the project indicated they were rather anxious about a project that focused on writing, their involvement has enabled them to develop new skills of their own while supporting their children. Everyone in the local community was invited to see the work in the Town Hall where pupils, parents, and visitors spent time reading about the families.

Website and further information

See our website <http://www.snpicl.org.uk/>. To join as a member go [here](#).

Those who have access to [glow](#) may request access to the SNIPCL glow group, which provides virtual networking.

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