

**Exchanging Knowledge between Home and School  
to Enhance Children's Learning in Literacy and Numeracy**

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## Abstract

This paper reports on the on-going work of the Home School Knowledge Exchange Project, based at the University of Bristol in the UK. The project seeks to enhance children's learning in literacy and numeracy, and to facilitate transfer between primary and secondary school, through exchanging knowledge between home and school. It rests on the assumption that parents, teachers and children have different knowledge and skills, and that these need to be brought together in order to enhance children's attainment and learning disposition. The project is taking place in Bristol, a city in the South West of England, and Cardiff, the capital city of Wales: this provides an opportunity to compare home/school work in two contrastive national settings.

The paper starts by outlining the educational policy context in England and Wales. It describes how the recent establishment of a Welsh Assembly has led to an increasing divergence of educational policy-making in the two countries: for example, national strategies for teaching literacy and numeracy are mandatory in England but not in Wales. The paper briefly reviews previous home/school initiatives in the UK, and contrasts these with the idea of Home School Knowledge Exchange (HSKE) activities. Examples are provided of two kinds of HSKE activities developed within the project: those which are primarily *school-to-home* and those which are primarily *home-to-school*. The paper ends by indicating a range of factors which are likely to determine both the nature and effectiveness of particular HSKE activities.