



Did you know that children spend only 10% of their waking time between the ages of 5 and 18 in a classroom?

It's a surprising statistic. It points out to us the role of the community outside of the classroom to help educate our children, to develop their skills, social and cultural capital.

What is the Children's University?

CU is an enrichment programme which takes place outside of the school day: it encourages 5 to 14 year olds to try new experiences; develop new interests and acquire new skills.

All children who decide to join the Children's University have an individually numbered 'Passport to Learning' in which they record, through the collection of learning stamps, the number of hours of learning they have achieved through taking part in Children's University learning activities. These are activities that take place outside of the normal school day and have been validated as 'good quality learning' opportunities by the Children's University. These are called Learning Destinations and are listed on our website (see below).

Through participation in fun, high quality learning experiences CU aims to grow inquisitive, confident, independent children and learners. It's about enjoyment and a sense of achievement for all.

Celebrating achievement is important and children are working towards National Children's University Awards which will be presented at a CU Graduation Ceremony, neatly modelled on the grown up version. These Awards Ceremonies will be held locally.

If your child wishes to join the Children's University, and their school is not a member, they can join through our CU Families programme. Details of this are on our website under Parent/Carer – How does my child join?

Further information on how to support your child with their involvement will be provided with the Passport to Learning.

To keep in touch and up-to-date with news from Essex and Suffolk Children's University we recommend our Facebook and Twitter pages:

www.facebook.com/essexchildrensuniversity or www.facebook.com/suffolkchildrensuniversity

www.twitter.com/EssexCU or www.twitter.com/SuffolkCU

Families can also opt to receive an email newsletter which gives updates on latest Children's University Learning Destination news and access to CU Challenges.

Further information can be found on our website, currently shared between Essex and Suffolk Children's Universities at www.essexchildrensuniversity.co.uk