

Success Story Questions - Debbie Poole

How did you first hear about the Adult Learning courses? During lockdown, I got the inside halton magazine and saw an advert for courses

What courses have you/are you doing? STL2

Why did you choose those ones? Always wanted to work with children but as I took time to raise my son, I had to pause my career, he is not at college so I felt the time was right for me to do something for me

How did you feel when you first enrolled on a course? Were you nervous, excited, worried? I did initially feel nervous but I didn't need to be, I met the tutors and the front line staff and they soon put me at ease, they explained everything to me at an information session so I knew exactly what was expected. Jenny really ENCOURAGED AND SUPPORTED me, she was very empathetic, I was concerned about having a gap in my employment history but Jenny guided me on how to approach that, she reassured me that raising a family was a valid reason for the gap in employment history

How did you feel when you started the course? Did you feel at ease and made to feel welcome? I was fine getting here but when we actually got in to the crux of the unit criteria I did feel that maybe I had bitten off more than I could chew, I had never really done assignments for a long time and was worried that I might not be able to get it done. Mandy was great, she explained everything step by step to us all, from how to write assignments to what our placement observation would look like.

Did you need any support while you were in the class? If so, did you get it? If you didn't need any support was it offered to you?

While I was on the course I was approached to apply for a breakfast/after school club job, which I was successful in, in realised quite soon that doing the course and the job, left me struggling to get my assignments done, I had a wobble! I honestly thought I had taken on too much but once again, Mandy was there for me, she reassured me that I was on track and that this was a fantastic opportunity for me., I am almost back on track with my assignments

Were the rest of the people on the course friendly and have you kept in touch with anyone? Everyone is great, we are all in the same boat, and all work well and support each other together

What did you most enjoy about the course? Working with the children, this job is giving me chance to work with all age groups, really helps me writing my reflection diary

What are you doing/what are you planning to do now you've finished your course? Once qualified I am hoping that a role becomes available at the School I am at

Finally, what would you say to anyone who was unsure about enrolling on a course?

When I first enrolled I had no confidence, I never imagined how far I would come in 12 months, now I am fulfilling my dream career and secured a job even before finishing the course, so if you are unsure take that first step and you might just surprise yourself, the journey is so worth it. I brought my son up by myself and it was tough at times. When I came home after my placement interview, to hear him say he was proud of me was the best feeling ever. Him and my sister have been such a support throughout this.

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