

Neighbourhood Learning

news



Summer 2010 Issue

Skills for Community Interpreter Course

Skills for Community Interpreter Level 2 is a new course programmed this year. 16 of our learners have completed the course.

"It is an excellent course, and I am able to use my language to support and help others"

I was so excited for my students when they were able to do this course towards an interpreting qualification. As well as enabling them to work as Community Interpreters in the future, it will give them much-needed

confidence in the useful role they can play in society, and acknowledge the value of their first-language skills. It is such a wonderful opportunity for them, and I am very grateful to the tutor and my colleagues at Adult Education College Bexley for organising it all and finding funding to enable students to learn the Skills for Community interpreting.

Many thanks indeed.
ESOL Tutor



"This course has helped me to realise that my language is a very useful skill. Which can help me to find employment as an Interpreter"

Stories & Quotes from Our Learners...

Success stories!



Anne Burrell is now working full time as a Health Trainer in Fulham

Comments from learners at Howbury Legal & Medical Diploma courses...

"I joined the course to update my skills and came away with a job and a great bunch of friends" **Kellie**

"I would recommend this course to anyone looking to further their qualification and confidence in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere" **Anneka**

"This course has been fantastic, never has learning been so much fun!" **Marie**



My Neighbourhood Learning Journey...

MOST YOUNG MOTHERS, when we get to the clinic just want the nurses to attend to our babies, listen to our complaints and worries, give us advice and tips, we then pack our bags and change nappies if need be and then wheel our buggies away. We don't really pay attention to our environment and lots of information that they are dying to pass across to us in the clinics, which will be of benefit to us.

As a nosy person for good info my eyes were roaming through the leaflets in the baby clinic in West Street Erith when I saw an A5 size leaflet with information about a Nail Art course just near me. My eyes popped out wanting to know more I took the paper out of the rest of the leaflets and I noticed it was free!! Wow! I was all excited, in addition to my joy there was a crèche for my baby while I studied nail art what more do I want? No child care excuses I quickly called the number as soon as I got home to get myself registered. Next day I pushed my buggy down West Street where the Neighbourhood Learning Course was taking place. There I met Jaswinder Dhillon for the first time, a very lovely lady indeed. I was not only registered for the nail art course but a big door was flung open to me for any other course I might want to learn afterwards. I was so happy going back home singing and pushing the buggy very fast so I can get home to share my opportunity with my husband. As he knows how much I wanted training in this area, this was my opportunity so I jumped at it.

On my first day of the Nail Art course I got myself ready on time as I didn't want to miss out on anything. I got to the centre checked my baby in the crèche with no worries at all as all the child care workers were qualified, they were lovely and the kids play area was clean so there was no cause for alarm, I can concentrate on my course and learn as much as I can. My teacher was Leslie, a very lovely lady with so much experience in the beauty industry having managed her own salon this is just the kind of person I needed to listen to, to build my beauty career.

Six weeks ran so fast, the classes were very informative and we had lots of hands on training and we were even able to create our own designs with lots of materials to use, we had everything we needed to make an effective learning environment. I made lots of friends, as the only black girl in the class I was so proud of myself to make progress in this area. A week before the course ended we were given the opportunity to learn how to make a good CV and we were introduced to

brilliant software that can help you to assess yourself with your skills and capabilities to see were you can fit in a job environment or business or even managerial positions.

"...we were all like sponges waiting to suck up all the knowledge we can get"

Just before the nail art course ended I picked up another leaflet about an open day at Gallions Resource Centre with a hairdressing course. Wow! All excited wanting a qualification and an enhancement of my skills I went home with the biggest smile ever to share with my husband plus child care arrangement sorted, I just need to take one bus from Erith straight to Gallions in Abbey Wood, this is exactly what I wanted. I met Jas again who introduced us to Odette our hairdressing teacher. One look at Odette I know I am in for it. For she has so much to give she was doing her PGCE at that time and I was moved by her enthusiasm to pass on this knowledge to us - we were all like wet sponges waiting to suck up all the knowledge we can get.

Every week was an addition to last week's knowledge or an enhancement of yesterday's skills. Doing European hair was very new to me as I have loads of experience with black hair. So all the tools, products, equipment were all new to me, being the only black girl in class I was determined to get this one as well and be sharp in it, those nine months were some of my best days ever.

Having seen my enthusiasm and learning capabilities Jas gave me the College brochure and I enquired about the JEB level 3 ICT Education Practise Course at Crayford Manor House. This course would prepare me to teach ICT as I had done IT training before I had my daughter. The enrolment on the JEB course was a bit challenging as I had to go to school in the evenings in winter but I was determined to go through with it so I took the challenge to start and finish the JEB course.

I met my teacher who happens to have my husbands name and my surname at the same time, Dee Moore. Her teaching style was a bit different to what I have been used to 'you have to dig up the gold yourself, instead of the gold being served to you on a plate' which makes learning very challenging for me but I took up the challenge, waking up at 4am most times to do all my course work and assignments. As that was the best time for me, kids asleep, and husband asleep, phone quiet, house quiet so I

can concentrate and on my work in peace.

After 9 months of hard work I handed in my course profile with dignity. I had to reset one of my papers which I was determined to pass as my qualification depended on it. When I finally passed the last paper I got my ICT Education Practise Certificate JEB Level 3. I was so happy with myself, this is an achievement I told myself.

Moving to Gillingham, Kent was like a new start but I got an opportunity to manage F&F hair and beauty and afro-Caribbean hair salon which I managed successfully for almost three years I built a good customer base. In between I did more courses to upgrade myself as I just can't stop learning.

I got an opportunity to hold an Afro hair work shop at Mid Kent College in Gillingham. That experience made me more determined to become a Vocational teacher as I have learnt so much and would like to pass it on to post secondary school students who might want to follow the career path I have on my way up. In preparation for that future I have enrolled to do a degree in Adult Education and Training which I await acceptance this year.

"I want to encourage all student mothers - you have the opportunity, make use of it. Be determined to educate yourself in spite of life's numerous challenges and educate yourself as much as possible as you don't know what the future holds"

I presently run my own Afro-Caribbean hair salon in Gillingham all the thanks go to Jas, Odette, Leslie and Dee Moore whom I met through the Adult Education College Bexley. I want to encourage all student mothers - you have the opportunity, make use of it. Be determined to educate yourself in spite of life's numerous challenges and educate yourself as much as possible as you don't know what the future holds. Thanks for giving me this lovely opportunity to share. Jas your labour of love will be rewarded.

Regina Moore
former student

