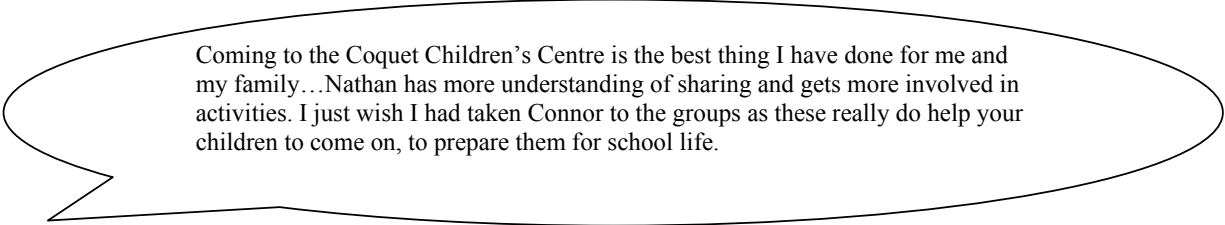


Cheryl, Coquet Children's Centre, Northumberland

Cheryl is a young mum who came to the Coquet Centre with very little confidence, and with no basic skills qualifications. With the Centre's support in terms of transport and crèche facilities, she has attended a range of confidence building courses, family learning sessions and parenting programmes. These initial courses led to Cheryl successfully completing her Level 1 Literacy very quickly. However, she failed the Level 2 Literacy at her first attempt and, despite the setback, she was determined to carry on and within a few months she passed her Level 2 Literacy, an achievement of which she is very proud. She has also passed her Level 1 Numeracy National Test, and has recently signed up to study for the Level 2.



Coming to the Coquet Children's Centre is the best thing I have done for me and my family...Nathan has more understanding of sharing and gets more involved in activities. I just wish I had taken Connor to the groups as these really do help your children to come on, to prepare them for school life.

Cheryl's successes in the National Tests encouraged her to study (and pass) the NCFE Level 2 Certificate in Developing Skills for Working with Children and Young People. Cheryl says that she is preparing for full employment once her youngest child starts school. After a placement at one of the Drop In & Play Groups, she is now running two of these groups. In one village, the Drop In and Play Group sessions had to close due to poor turnout, and a change of venue did not significantly increase numbers. However, through hard work and enthusiasm, Cheryl has managed to significantly increase the numbers attending, so that it is now very successful. Cheryl is also a parent volunteer at a local school and is soon starting a course to train as a teaching assistant. Cheryl specifically says that her own children are happier because she is and that her family are closer and have greater understanding of each other. Cheryl still has the learning bug – she signs up to as many learning sessions as possible at the centre and is taking part in the current 'Share' family learning programme. Starting with qualifications, Cheryl began her lifelong learning at a confidence building workshop and is now well on her way to gaining full time employment in a skilled profession.

Cheryl's progression route:

