

Sally, Leicestershire won the “Most Improved Learner in Leicestershire” award in 2006¹

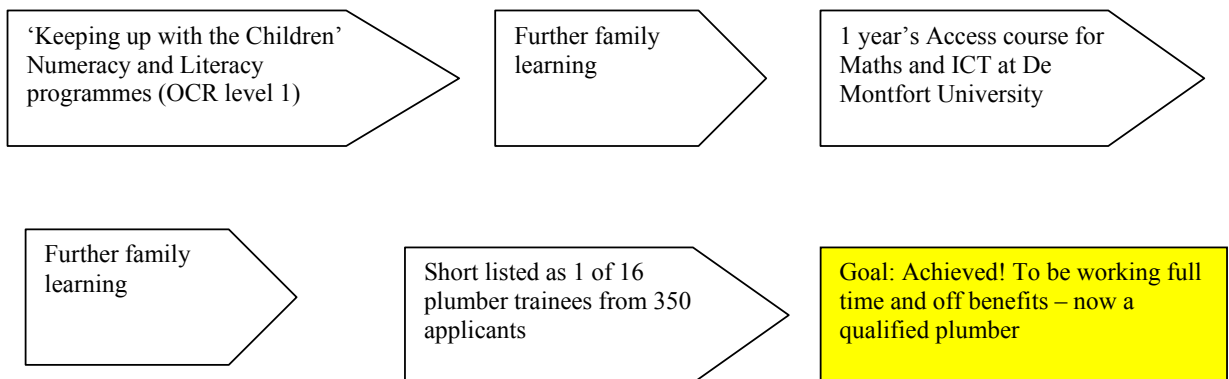
As a single parent with two primary school boys, Sally re-started her learning journey in May 2001 attending a ‘Keeping up with the Children’ Numeracy and Literacy programmes (OCR level 1) in order to help and support her children’s learning. Further family learning led to Sally gaining key skills accreditation and a place at De Montfort University on a year’s Access course to study Maths and ICT. Unable to draw on financial assistance, yet undaunted, she travelled to Leicester every day by public transport and graduated in the summer of 2003. Sally decided against further study for an HND qualification as she was looking for a career and the opportunity to be ‘off benefits’.

Further Family Learning at her children’s school led Sally to decide to become a plumber. She was accepted, having been short listed from 350 mainly male applicants and was the only female in a group of fifteen men. She qualified in 2005, was accepted as a trainee with a local plumber and thus achieved her target.... “to get off benefits and have a full-time career’.

Marion McMillan, Family Learning tutor, nominated Sally for her award. “Sally was a constant source of fun, inspiration, motivation and vision with her ideas for further study to benefit both herself and her friends. She thoroughly deserves this recognition.”

...and last words from Sally...”Going back to learning has completely changed my life for the better, not only because I am working but that I have something to offer now. I also feel that I know a lot more about me as a person than I did before. I feel complete”

Sally’s progression route



¹ NB: This case study is also referenced in NIACE (2007).

