

This story was filmed and recorded during early February 2006 for ‘Hear all about it!’

This campaign is a wonderful selection of inspiring adult learning stories told by the learners themselves. The highlights from Ashley’s interview can be watched and read; this is the transcript of the whole interview. The on-line learning champions would be delighted if her stories were used to promote learning in your organisation, college or charity. You can link your webpage to the West Midlands Learning Directory – Hear all about it! page

www.wmld.org/pages/hear_all_about_it/.



Ashley’s story -

I’m doing English and maths at Sutton Coldfield adult learning centre. Level one in each, well I’ve done my level one, I’m doing level two now. I left school with no qualifications whatsoever, I went back to school and they’ve referred me to adult learning centres and Connexions if you’ve ever heard of it? Yeah, and I go to both of them. I left school with no qualifications so there was nothing really open to me so I went back to school and they referred me to the adult learning centre cause they’ve got the courses I wanted. And the qualifications I want and all, so I went there.

At the adult learning centre, they teach you at your own level, whatever level you are. Sometimes if you need it, they teach you one to one, there are tutors there to help you. I didn’t feel, when I left school I felt crap, so I’m boosting myself up and that, my confidence and that. You’ve got adults around you and that, all different ages and that, its cool. Not all of them are the same, some of them are, and some of them aren’t. I’m the youngest one there, in the class. There’s an older chap there and all, he asked me if I needed any help. He teaches me with stuff and I help him sometimes.

I didn’t have much confidence at school, so, you know, it helped a lot, the adult learning centre with my confidence, and I read better now than I did before. I talk to other people now, get along with other people now, at school I didn’t get along much, got on not well with the others and that. I was like the odd one out.

Everybody else had more confidence than me; I didn’t know where to put myself really. I didn’t get on with many people, didn’t get on with the teachers really. Now I go to this place, I get on with everybody, have a laugh with the teachers. I didn’t at school.

They just left you to it. The teachers at the adult learning centre, they stay with you, they explain it and you have to do it yourself. They sit with you and explain it and if you don’t understand it, ask them, and if you still don’t understand it ask them again until you do. At school I didn’t usually do that, I just sat there and thought, “I don’t know”, you know, cause I didn’t have the confidence to ask them, but now I do.

This project was managed by jo.knight@niace.org.uk - who can be contacted for more information. She works for NIACE (National Institute of Adult Continuing Education). Birmingham and Solihull Learning and Skills Council funded the project.

