

Clare - Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools Learner

Clare was a full time mum looking for a change in career. One day she noticed a flyer in her youngest son's pre-school regarding a Supporting Teaching and Learning (STLS) course with Skills & Learning. After seeing the flyer Clare got in contact with us and began her journey. Read Clare's full story here.

After getting in contact with Skills & Learning, Clare enrolled on our Helping in Schools course, before beginning the Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools Level 2 course. Once this was completed Clare began our Functional Skills Maths course before finally enrolling on and completing our Supporting Teaching and Learning in School Level 3 course. "I couldn't have done it without my assessor Frances, she was just brilliant. She always had the best advice and was very encouraging, reliable and supportive." Clare continued to say, "I have just changed roles from being a Teaching Assistant at a primary school for 3 years to an Art Technician at a Secondary School. The STLS course enabled me to get that job, I was able to answer all my interview questions correctly, I knew what they were looking for and I don't think I would have been able to have done it without the knowledge gained from this course."

Clare used to work in the Film industry, but working 7 days a week whilst being a mother to two boys, was exhausting. Clare would teach at the college on the odd occasion and decided that a career in Supporting Teaching and Learning would allow her to balance work and family life better. "I received support all the way through my course thanks to Skills & Learning and Frances, my assessor. I am about to start my new job and this is down to Frances. During my coursework I would relate questions and answers to my current experiences at the primary school I worked at. It was what I knew. However Frances would remind me to think about the wider elements to Supporting Teaching and Learning such as Colleges, Secondary Schools & Universities. It enabled me to think more widely and has allowed me to be successful in getting my new job."

Clare continued to say "I don't think there was anything I didn't like about the course. It has been really difficult to fit it around work and family life but it was do-able. Again, I don't think I would have done it without Frances. I hit all of my deadlines; however, towards the end of my course I was unwell. Frances gave me the guidance I needed to get me through it and gave me the reassurance and confidence needed to finish my course!"

The key to Clare's success was allocating study times; Saturday mornings were dedicated to trips to the library to sit and study. "My study time was sacred; I would get most of my work done on Saturday mornings, however I would squeeze everything else in when I could! My best advice to anyone who wants to join the course or is looking for a career in Supporting Teaching and Learning is to just go for it! Volunteering in a School is a good place to start. You can then apply what you learn volunteering to the course. Schools are such a cohesive environment; everyone wants to see you succeed so you can get some really good tips and advice from working in one! Be methodical in your work and if you don't know something ask for help, that's what your assessors are there for. I really recommend this course to anybody!"

After months of hard work, Clare has impressed herself and not only feels enlightened by what she has learnt but what she has realised she is capable of! Clare went on to say “I have been empowered by this experience. Despite doing the job already I feel as though it is necessary to do the course! You touch every corner of the job on the course; it goes further than what the job does and prepares you for situations you may not come across for years in the workplace. I have a greater understanding of the environment I am apart of, and I can’t wait to give the support I have learnt to the children in my new job and to watch them grow and learn. It’s just mind-blowing.”

[If you are looking for a career in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools then take a look at our courses here.](#)

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