

## **Adult Achievement Awards: learner case study #3**

### **Sam Davison, North West Resource Centre, Dumfries and Galloway Council**

#### **Introducing Sam**

Sam Davison volunteers in a busy parent and toddler group in Dumfries and Galloway, alongside a member of Dumfries and Galloway Council's family learning team. She also has experience of working in primary schools. Sam has achieved Adult Achievement Awards at SCQF levels 4 and 6.

#### **Sam's learning journey**

Sam originally attended the Council's North West Resource Centre to work towards an SQA Core Skill qualification in numeracy at SCQF level 4. After Sam achieved that qualification, she discussed possible next steps with her tutor, Jean. Jean suggested that Sam might consider undertaking an Adult Achievement Award.

Sam achieved an Award at SCQF level 4 by reflecting on her work as a volunteer in the parent and toddler group. She found working towards the qualification straightforward. Sam wanted to stretch herself so decided to work towards the SCQF level 6 Award. Sam found the level 6 Award more challenging than the level 4 due to the research element relating to learning styles, but she completed it successfully.

#### **The difference the Award has made to Sam**

For Sam, the real difference the Awards have made is the boost to her confidence and her belief in her own capabilities. She says:

I now have more confidence to speak to the parents and children at the parent and toddler group. At first I wouldn't speak to anyone but now I've come out of my shell.

Sam has also spoken to other learners and tutors about her positive experience of the Awards. She was able to contribute successfully in two separate workshops at two national conferences at Newbattle Abbey College. She believes that the Awards gave her the confidence to speak in public at these conferences — something she says she would not have felt able to do in the past.

#### **What next for Sam?**

Sam has already progressed in her learning, moving from the level 4 Award to the level 6. She now feels inspired to undertake further learning, saying:

It proves that I can put my mind to achieving whatever qualification I choose to work towards.

Sam is about to start studying for an SQA Award in Volunteering Skills probably at SCQF Level 5. She hopes this will strengthen her ability to perform her volunteering role in the parent and toddler group and provides evidence of the progress she has made.

#### **What Sam would say to other potential learners**

Sam is enthusiastic about encouraging other people to consider working towards an Award. She says:

You should go for it. You get a real feeling of being “up to it”, and there’s the reward of the qualification at the end. It will boost your confidence and give you a greater feeling of self-worth.