

Flexible Learning in Residential Care

At the beginning of her Fresh Start journey, the student was a young mother with no formal qualifications. She had been through a deeply traumatic period: having grown up in foster care and, after giving birth prematurely, found herself living alone while caring for a baby with a disability, supported in part by social services. These difficult circumstances left her feeling overwhelmed and uncertain about her future.

Despite this, she was determined to build a better life for herself and her child. Fresh Start provided the opportunity she needed to begin shaping a new vision towards a positive direction. She developed a strong and trusting relationship with her tutor and expressed a clear goal: to pass her Level 2 Functional Skills in English and Maths so she could either enter employment or move forward into further education.

In addition to studying English and Maths, the bespoke sessions, delivered in a venue chosen to meet the needs of both the student and her baby, created a safe and encouraging space to work on parenting skills, relationships, and career research. These sessions also offered time for personal interests, such as art, which helped her build confidence and bring structure to her daily life.

After just ten months of commitment and hard work, she successfully passed her Level 2 Functional Skills in both English and Maths. She also strengthened her personal relationships, gained confidence as a mother, and looked forward to moving into her first home to live independently with a renewed sense of purpose.

