

Home Access gives Suffolk family a sporting chance

HOME ACCESS

NEXT GENERATION LEARNING



“It’s good, children can use it to study and the parent controls block bad things.”

Angela Pessoa

Angela Pessoa and her family live in Lowestoft, Suffolk. They moved here from the Algarve in Portugal four years ago. Angela is a single mum with two children; Soraia who is 13 and a keen swimmer, and 8 year old Alex who wants to be a professional footballer. Angela wants both children to go to university after finishing school.

Angela was a residential childcare worker in Portugal, but her qualification isn’t recognised in England. Currently she’s working 12 hours a week as a cleaner at the local secondary school while she improves her English and gets some recognised qualifications. Angela’s doing an NVQ in Children’s care, learning and development, as well as volunteering at

St Mary’s Roman Catholic Primary School for 15 hours a week. In September she starts an NVQ2 course for teaching assistants and eventually hopes to qualify as a teacher and work with primary school age children.

Life before Home Access

Angela used to have a computer at home, but it broke and she couldn’t afford to buy a new one. Instead, the family had to rely on their local library to access a computer and the internet. The children use the internet for homework and researching things that interest them, as well as keeping in touch with their dads in Portugal. Angela uses it for coursework and keeping in touch with her wider family in Portugal. As the library is 15 minutes walk away, they were only able to go twice a week and fit this in with all of the children’s other after-school activities.

Angela felt that the children were disadvantaged before, because accessing computers and the internet after school to do their homework and extend their learning was very limited.

School leads the way to closer parental engagement

Angela heard about the programme through school and attended a parents’ event where she received an application form. She applied for the grant because “it’s easier to get involved in what they are doing and monitor what they’re accessing with a computer at home”. Angela found the form was easy to fill in, even though she says “my English is not very good”.

A positive change for the whole family

All of the family use their computer and Soraia and Alex use it every day. Angela is happy because they can spend more time at home rather than visiting the library. She also says it helps to keep the children busy doing positive things when she’s busy doing her housework. As well as completing coursework, Angela uses home access to book travel tickets and look for jobs.

Delivered by

Becta leading next generation learning