

Kanwal and Rehaan are going places with Home Access

HOME ACCESS

NEXT GENERATION LEARNING

Kanwal is originally from Pakistan. She lives in Oldham with her 8 year old son Rehaan. Rehaan is a bright young boy and is doing well in school.

Prior to getting their Home Access package, Rehaan only had access to computers at school and at their local library, which they visited a couple of times a week. As Kanwal had no access to a car, she and Rehaan had travelled by bus to the library. Fitting this in between school, tea time and bed time was quite difficult.

Laptop helps Mum support Rehaan's learning

As Kanwal already had broadband internet access at home as part of a telephone and TV package she only applied for a partial grant. Kanwal and Rehaan chose a laptop for two main reasons; firstly that it was portable and secondly that the larger screen would make it easier for them to use together. Her housing support worker helped her consider all of the pros and cons of the different devices available.

Impressive service makes getting online very easy

Kanwal heard about the programme from housing support worker, who helped her to fill in the application form, after learning more and discussing the benefits of home access to a computer for both their educations.

Despite having broadband at home Kanwal had never used it. Setting up her laptop was in her words "very easy, because the man from the shop did it for me, including connecting the broadband." She found the level of service from the supplier was impressive.

Home Access benefits continue to add up

Although Kanwal felt that a lack of computer and internet access at home was a disadvantage to both herself and Rehaan, it was a cost that the family couldn't afford. Rehaan now uses the computer about three to four days a week to do his homework and improve his numeracy skills in particular. He has found using free educational games online makes this more engaging.

"It is so easy to use and helps with lots of things. I can now find out anything I want. It's really good for me and my son, it's educational and everything."

Kanwal

As a single mum Kanwal has discovered online social networking and found that it enables her to keep in touch with her friends and family more frequently, lessening her sense of isolation. She has been in contact with her sister in Pakistan who she hasn't seen for more than two years.

Kanwal has also used the laptop to do her driving theory test and has been researching courses to train as a beauty therapist. She has also used it to find practice test papers for a course she is doing as a volunteer on understanding health improvement so that she can become a 'Health Champion' in her local community.



"Getting a computer at home is fabulous. I think this will help me with my homework a lot because I can research stuff on it."

Rehaan