

# Home Access: giving birth to better prospects

HOME ACCESS

NEXT GENERATION LEARNING



"This has been a gift. Why would anyone not go for it? It's given me the opportunity to achieve something that I wouldn't have been able to do if I hadn't had a computer and internet access."

Nora, parent and adult learner

Nora is a single mum who lives with her three children, Suadd, Sarah and Omar, in Suffolk. The family learned about the Home Access programme through a leaflet from Sarah's primary school and applied for a Home Access Grant straight away. Getting a Home Access package has been great for all of the family, and for Nora in particular, it's opening up new opportunities.

Nora did have some previous computer experience through working with a hospital computer system and taking a European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) course. However she was pregnant at the time and had to give the course up.

## Developing new skills

Since then she has largely taught herself internet skills, such as knowing how to find information and research subjects, on the

back of the experience she already had. But she is finding it much easier to develop new skills since getting online at home.

Although unable to work for 5 years, Nora has completed many courses, ranging from arts and crafts to parenting skills, which always meant regular trips to the library to get online.

These trips used to be difficult to organise due to finding a baby sitter and the half an hour time limit on the computers meant she did not always have the time she needed.

## Studying and staying in touch online

Since getting online with the Home Access programme Nora has started a 'return to midwifery diploma' online. She carries out all of her research, completes assignments and stays in touch with university and hospital colleagues through the internet.

Being online at home has enabled Nora to sign up for a course that will give her the

qualifications she needs to return to work and eventually become a part-time midwife.

## Home comfort

Getting online has also helped Nora with her day-to-day life as well.

"It's made it much easier and quicker to do so many things. Being able to do everything from home has made such a difference, such as internet banking, emails, social networking and booking all sorts of travel arrangements. I think it's still possible to manage life without the internet, but it would have made it much more difficult to do my course."

"Having internet access at home can't be described. It's made a big difference to me."

Nora, parent and adult learner

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