

Reflect on the work you do everyday and compare and contrast your practice before and after this course

My working practice has changed greatly since starting this course. I am new to this position, having only started last year in reception class, working with 4 and 5 year olds.

I am currently studying for a NVQ Level 3 in Child Care Learning and Development. I am finding the NVQ course very good, but I have learnt so much more over the last 10 weeks, from the Elklan course.

It has been very detailed in all areas of communication and language in the classroom. Before the course I was finding I was asking the teacher how to do things with the children with language problems, but now I have the confidence to try different activities with them myself and see the children develop. I understand much more about them and find it easier to identify what could be wrong with someone using the communication chain.

I think it is advantageous to have a teaching assistant with this knowledge in the reception class, who can work with the children at this early age to give them the skills they need to develop.

Although the teacher has the skills, there is not always the time for the teacher to spend time with them on a one to one basis. We have a child in our class with unclear speech, I have been working with her, using the different activities from the Elklan book and have seen a good improvement in her speech. I also have regular update sessions with her Mother and she is very pleased with the improvements and the work I have been doing.

If I had not completed this course at the Level 3 stage I would not have been able to assist this child as much as I have.

Julie Newtown

13/7/09 Speech and language support in the classroom