

Session Plan: Employability with reference to Literacy, Language and Numeracy

Aims

For participants to:

 develop an approach to teaching employability that reflects requirements within the new and evolving 'back to work' context

Outcomes

By the end of the session participants should have:

- considered issues around employability
- shared strategies for supporting integration into the workforce for a range of learners that overcome barriers to self development
- explored additional resources for delivering sustainable employment prospects and looked at the online Core Curriculum Employability section

| Time (in mins) | Content Activity | Resources | | |
|----------------------|--|-----------|------------|----------------------------------|
| | | No | Style | Title |
| 10m | Welcome and introduction, objectives | 1.1 | PowerPoint | Slides 1- 4 |
| | Trainers introduce themselves. Go over housekeeping and plan for the session. Participants introduce themselves. | | | |
| | Ice breaker <i>Purpose: To model a starter activity and</i> <i>to match delivery to expectations and</i> <i>find out the range of experiences in the</i> <i>group.</i> | | | |
| | Activity Participants write on post-it notes 3 things they'd like to find out by the end of the session. Trainers put them on the wall and refer to them at the end of the session to see if questions have been answered. | 1.2 | Activity | Post it-notes for 3 questions |



| | Elicit the following points that distinguish the new approach from the previous funding framework: Payment for learners is not LLN target based as it has been in the past. Financial rewards will be for keeping learners in work. | 1.3 | Resource Trainer notes | Handout: Learners' issues Introduction |
|---------|--|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 20 mins | Supporting 'customers' and employability issues Purpose: To gain an overview of tutors' experiences, raise awareness of different ways of learning and discuss any issues | 2.1 | PowerPoint | Slides 5 - 6 |
| | Activity Discussion and flip chart presentation: Overview of current employability support and issues. Participants discuss the questions and create a flip chart presentation: What are the different ways that you currently support learners in sessions? Any issues involved with this type of provision? | 2.2 | Activity | Discussion; Supporting learners and employability issues: flip chart paper and coloured pens |
| | Small groups or pairs get a 'learning styles' choice for the creation of their flip chart e.g. a drawing, a list or mindmap. When completed put charts on the wall. Trainers sum up and also | 2.3 | Resource | Handout: Different ways of presenting information |
| | Trainers sum up and also explain different layouts relating to ways of retaining information. Trainers elicit or highlight key issues for employability: Language, Literacy and Numeracy Skills (LLN) motivation personal issues | 2.4 | Trainer notes | Different ways of presenting information |



| | 4. ICT skills | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---------------|---|
| 10m | Further considerations on issues that impact on employability <i>Purpose: To unpick issues highlighted</i> <i>above in order to consider the impact</i> <i>on learners and to share current</i> <i>strategies</i> | 3.1 | PowerPoint | Slides 7-8 |
| | Activity Presentation and review of impact of issues raised for learners'confidence and motivation for employment. • Trainers explain that issues highlighted can impact | 3.2 | Activity | Presentation and questioning |
| | considerably on learners' confidence when applying for jobs / maintaining employment. Trainers check participants are aware of the points 1-4 below. Trainers give out handout. | 3.3 | Resource | Handout: Further considerations on issues that impact on employability |
| | Language and Literacy Skills ESOL/language related ESOL/ literacy related dyslexia differences between spoken and written skills in English | 3.4 | Trainer notes | Further considerations |
| | 2. Language related motivation Integrative motivation – learner wants to identify with the culture of the new language being learnt. Instrumental motivation learner wants to pass an exam or further career prospects. | | | on issues that impact on employability |
| | 3. Personal issues and motivation cultural differences depression/ medication, lack of confidence family commitments educational | | | |
| | 4. ICT skills developing motor skills for ICT | | | |



| | lack of ICT or technology knowledge and age group differences handwriting skills versus ability to write using ICT | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---------------|---|
| 20m | Teaching employability <i>Purpose: To make links between issues</i> <i>discussed and teaching strategies to</i> <i>develop and use to promote</i> <i>employability</i> | 4.1 | PowerPoint | Slides 9 - 10 |
| | Activity Discussion activity in pairs or groups to share ideas on current teaching: Give out activity sheet 4.2. Ask participants to share and write down some of their current teaching areas for employability, for example: | 4.2 | Activity | Handout: Question on current strategies for supporting customers |
| | working with learners' strengths and areas for support supporting learners' LLN development presenting steps to employment positively presenting employment as an attainable goal helping learners see | | | |
| | their current skills as transferable to the work place etc. • Trainers circulate and support. | 4.3 | Resource | Handout: Impact on teaching employability |
| | Trainers take feedback for a range of supporting strategies. Give out resource 4.3. | 4.4 | Trainer notes | Impact on teaching employability |
| 25m | Visual resources for the classroom and the individual | 5.1 | PowerPoint | Slide 11 |
| | Purpose: For participants to create | 5.2 | Activity | Visual |



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|-----|---|-----|---------------|---|
| | visual resources enabling learners to see the goals they are setting themselves Activity | | | resources for the classroom and the individual |
| | Creating visual resources for the classroom and the individual • Trainer encourages pairs or groups to create visuals to depict stages in the process of planning for work but do not initially suggest ideas - examples might include: • a planning wheel | | | Flip chart paper and pens, rulers Have at least one good visuals pre - prepared |
| | stepping stones a river a brick wall (that can be removed or climbed over) | 5.3 | Resource | Handouts 5.3a and 5.3b |
| | an achievement ladder. Put visuals up for discussion. Visuals might contain some of the following: initial interview and assessment CV with current skills and new goals new skills (driving, homework club etc.) course - Certificate of achievement ICT support / job search work experience job interview | 5.4 | Trainer notes | Visual resources for the classroom and the individual |
| 25m | Overview of employability from an employer's perspective Purpose: To explore skills required to match employer requirements | 6.1 | PowerPoint | Slides: 12-13 |
| | Activity 4 separate tasks - either groups, pairs, or individuals list one of the following 4 topics of the 10 workplace skills in order to compare them all: 1. 10 top reading skills | 6.2 | Activity | Flip chart paper and pens : Overview of |



| | 2. 10 top writing skills | | | employability |
|-----|---|-----|---------------|--|
| | 10 top speaking and listening skills 10 top number skills | | | from an employer's perspective |
| | Take feedback and suggest these skills need to be broken down further when preparing for work. | | | |
| | Elicit a breakdown of additional skills required to intervene in the cycle of long term unemployment such as | 6.3 | Handout | Top 10 skills |
| | arriving at work on time requires: ability to tell the time accurately get into a routine read travel information etc. | | | at work |
| | Discuss how tasks need to be broken down e.g. being able to get | 6.4 | Trainer notes | Skills for employment |
| | somewhere specific for a job interview involves: | | | |
| | reading and understanding instructions related to the job interview | | | |
| | remembering or writing down where to go noting time to arrive | | | |
| | remembering who to meet knowledge of timetables for arriving in time at the right place. | | | |
| 15m | Break | | | |
| 25m | Self awareness of transferable skills to build confidence Purpose: To raise learners' awareness of the skills they have and how these | 7.1 | PowerPoint | Slides 14-16 |
| | translate into skills for the workplace | | | Pre-prepared |
| | Activity Explain that this task is designed to look at individual skills from a personal starting point rather than work skills and to see how | 7.2 | Activity | handouts or flip chart paper and pens |
| | they translate into work skills. | | | l can7.3 |



| | Participants complete the boxes in the handouts or on pre | 7.3 | Resource | l can7.4 |
|---------------|---|-----|---------------|--|
| | prepared flip chart paper. | 7.4 | Resource | l am7.5 |
| | 7.3 and 7.4 highlight learners' current skills, 7.5 indicates that learners' | 7.5 | Resource | l am7.6 |
| | current skills are transferable: | 7.6 | Resource | |
| | Give participants time to share their ideas with their table group. Give completed handouts for discussion. Take feedback and questions. | 7.7 | Trainer notes | Transferable skills and workbased opportunities |
| 20m | What resources are available? | 8.1 | PowerPoint | Slides |
| | Purpose: To view some online resources that support employability | 8.2 | Trainer notes | What resources are |
| | Activity Show the range of online Core Curriculum resources in the Employability section of the site and ensure everyone can access it. Participants explore the resources online. Print some handouts of the different resources for participants to view if you do not have access to a laptop or computer for the session. You may wish to have some available in addition to the online Core Curriculum. | 0.1 | DoworDoint | available? Lap top or computers |
| 10m (3.00) | Summary of session Purpose: To return to the original questions the group had and to see if they have been addressed in the training | 9.1 | PowerPoint | Slides Re Cap activity |
| | Direct attention back to the post-its from the warmer activity. Recap the aims for the session and what you have covered referring to the questions where possible. For any not covered or that | | | |

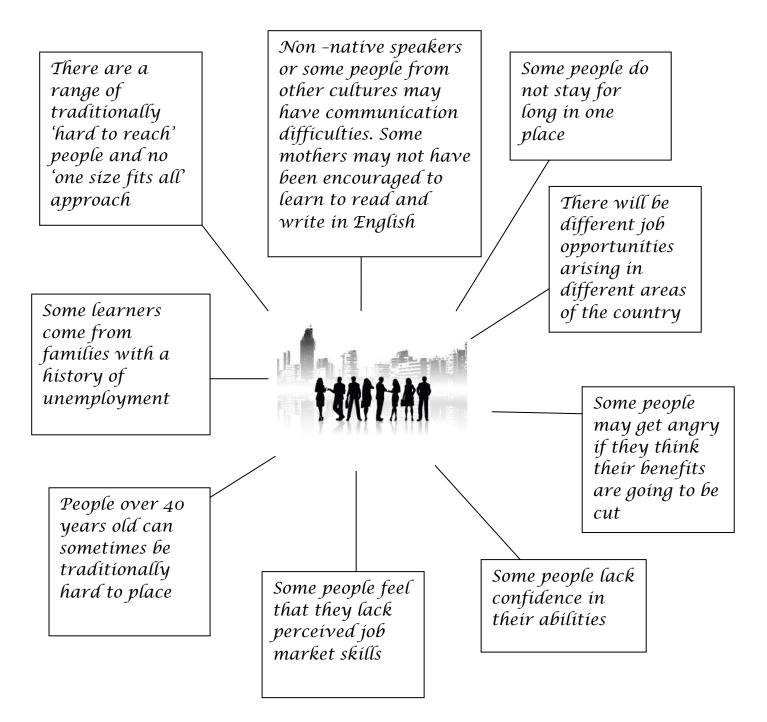


| you cannot answer note possible follow up session | for |
|--|-------------|
| management. Complete | valuations. |



1.3 Resource Customer Issues

Financial payments will in future be for getting people into work and keeping them in employment. Traditionally some people have been harder to support into work than others. The following issues have been raised by employability tutors.





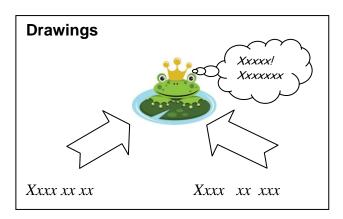
1.4 Trainer notes Introduction

In this training, we have used the word learners, rather than customers, for those who are attending employability courses or workshops.

- Trainers introduce themselves.
- Go over housekeeping and the plan for the session.
- Ensure everyone understands the aims and outcomes of the training event.
- Participants introduce themselves.
- Note the teaching contexts of the participants to group people from similar contexts together during activities.
- Participants write 3 questions which they would like answered on post-it notes which are then put up on the wall. It is unlikely that trainers will be able to answer all questions but you can highlight any answered during the training or make links through the ideas and materials used. If there are some queries that cannot be answered, keep them to email the answer after the training or suggest that there might be options for another session.
- Elicit what the group sees as some of the recent changes to employability and funding and make sure that the following points are made regarding targets:
 - Payment for customers is not LLN target based as before.
 - Financial rewards will be for keeping customers in work for a length of time.
 - More emphasis on 'hard to reach' long term unemployed, families with a poor work history and lack of skills in the job market, people over 40 who may be harder to place, nonnative speakers of English including mothers who may not have been encouraged to learn English.
- Give out handout 1.3







2.3 Resource Different ways of presenting information



2.4 Trainer notes Different ways of presenting information

- Explain why it can be useful for people to use different layouts to convey information and how we have different ways of remembering information. Some people may prefer to have a more visual approach whereas others like to make lists using words.
- When looking at the range of flip chart information produced by the participants, highlight how the use of different layouts (linear/ visual/chart/words/ pictures) can produce interesting and varied results.
- Discuss briefly the following:

Drawings

Imagery is a good way of retaining complex information without having to remember lists or texts and for many people, including those who may not have been successful in an academic schooling situation, drawings and diagrams can be very accessible and easy to retain in the long term memory.

Mind maps

While looking at the mind maps discuss how this can be a good way to organise information and prioritise points. Point out this is a particularly useful strategy to use with learners or customers who are dyslexic, as you easily gain a holistic view of the information.

Lists

When discussing the list approach, highlight how either bullet points or numbers can be used (or both) and that the process can also be used to show points numerically in order of importance.

- Bring into the discussion on supporting learners the following key ideas to help to deal with some of the issues involved for those who might be finding getting back into work problematic:
 - Ensure learners can highlight their own strengths.
 - Ensure learners can see how their current strengths and skills are transferable to the workplace situation.
 - Present learners' steps towards employment positively.
 - Present the idea of employment as an attainable personal goal.



3. 3 Resource Further considerations on issues that impact on employability

1. Language and Literacy Skills:

- ESOL/language related
- ESOL/native speakers literacy related
- dyslexia
- differences between spoken and written skills in English
- code switching from informal to formal English speaking

2. Language learning motivation:

- **Integrative motivation** learner wants to identify with the culture of the new language being learnt.
- **Instrumental motivation** learner wants to pass an exam or further career Prospects.

3. Personal Issues and motivation:

- cultural issues
- depression/ medication,
- lack of confidence
- family commitments
- education and qualifications
- family commitments

4. ICT skills:

- developing motor skills for ICT
- lack of ICT or technology knowledge and confidence in using new and developing technology
- handwriting skills versus ability to write using ICT



3.4 Trainer Notes Further considerations on issues that impact on employability

Presentation, questioning and review of participants' knowledge of the impact of the issues raised on learners' confidence and motivation for employment

- Trainer explains that the issues highlighted can impact considerably on learners' confidence when applying for jobs and maintaining employment.
- Ask participants if they have had experience of learners with poor motivation or lack of confidence and ask the group to suggest how they can help people overcome a lack of motivation.
- Raise the point that in some communities work will come through word of mouth and the idea of CVs may be a new concept.
- Ask what other resources are available for learner referrals to other agencies.
- Check participants' current expectations for success and how many people they have been able to support into employment on average.
- Ask which groups are the hardest to place and whether there are regional differences in the group.
- Trainer then sums up and checks participants are aware of the following key points 1-4 below
 - 1. Language and Literacy Skills
 - 2. Motivation
 - 3. Personal Issues
 - 4. ICT skills:
- Trainer gives out handout 3.3



4.2 Question sheet Issues that impact on teaching employability

Question: What are some of the ways that you currently address these issues?

How do you deal with a range of Language and Literacy Skills in the classroom?

How do you support learner motivation?

How do you deal with any personal issues?

What do you do to support learners' ICT skills?



4.3 Handout Issues that impact on teaching employability

Question: How do these issues impact on teaching?

Some ideas - tutors may be:

- Supporting a varied range of learners with different strengths and areas for support
- Supporting learners with a range of Literacy, Language and Numeracy levels (LLN stages of development linked to the Core Curricula/um?)
- Supporting non-native speakers with their spoken and written English
- Supporting native speakers with literacy skills in formal writing
- Teaching CV writing and ICT skills
- Encouraging job search activities and ICT skills
- Training candidates in interview techniques
- Advising on body language for interviews
- Presenting steps towards employment positively
- Presenting the idea of employment as an attainable goal
- Building learners' confidence
- Ensuring learners can see how their current strengths and skills are transferable to the workplace

This is not a full list of issues, participants will bring a range of ideas with them to share



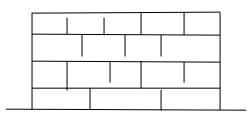
4.4 Trainer notes Issues that impact on teaching employability

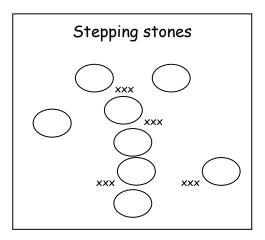
- Trainers give out activity sheet 4.2 to each participant to complete individually.
- Trainers circulate and support.
- When task is completed ask participants to share their ideas with their table group on topics such as:
 - o using learners' strengths and developing areas needing support
 - supporting learners' LLN development
 - o presenting steps to employment positively
 - o presenting employment as an attainable goal
 - helping learners see their current skills as transferable to the work place
- Trainers take feedback of key points on a range of supporting strategies
- Trainers give out resource 4.3 for participants to read
- Highlight the last 4 points in bold on the handout (4.3) as areas for further discussion in order to break them down further



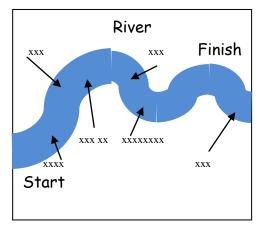
5.3a Resource Visual resources for the classroom and the individual Steps to getting a job - different visual aids for the classroom that can be produced

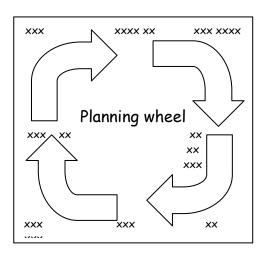
Brick wall

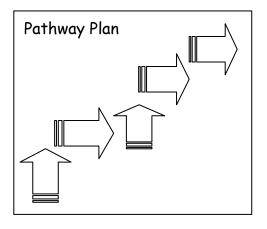










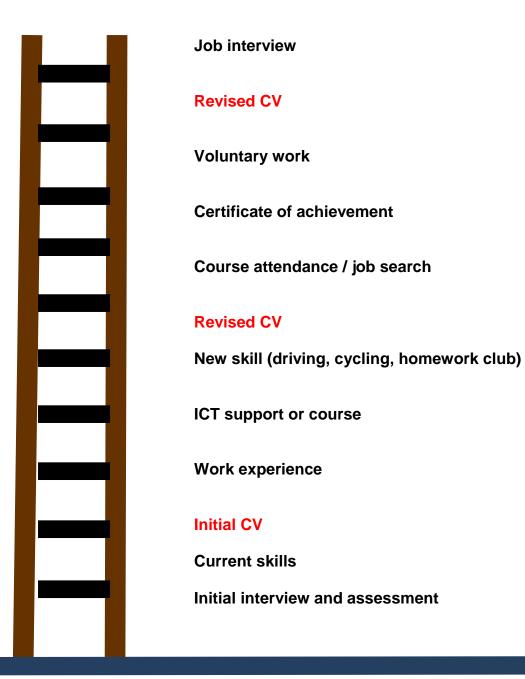




5.3b Resource Visual resources for the classroom and the individual

The visual aids steps to getting a job and the planning process might contain all or some of the following steps, for example:

Achievement Ladder*





5.4 Trainer notes Visual resources

- Ask participants what visuals they use in the classroom, are they text based, diagrams, pictures? Suggest good visuals may be created on a large scale as a teaching aid in the classrooms or for small, individual's tasks.
- Point out that visuals are not childish as the brain can remember images more effectively than texts and for non-native speakers, visuals support language.
- Ask participants in pairs or groups to create a visual on flip chart paper to promote the concept of employability as **a process**.
- As participants create their charts circulate and promote ideas if they are struggling. Confirm that no-one needs to be able to draw to make charts and that there is no right or wrong solution. Encourage different ideas and the use of colour.
- Reinforce the requirement for a customer to review, develop and adapt their CVs continually as they add new things that they have done or achieved. Point out that placements, voluntary work or work experiences are useful (not a waste of time) Include all activities such as after school clubs etc. as positive parts of the process of getting into a routine for work or working with others.
- When visuals are completed put the results up around the room for discussion.
- The usual approaches are
 - a planning wheel
 - stepping stones
 - a river
 - a brick wall (that can be removed or climbed over)
 - an achievement ladder

Each visual may contain some or all of the following:

- o initial interview and assessment
- o current skills and new goals
- o initial CV
- voluntary work or new skill (driving, cycling, after school homework club))
- o course attendance / job search
- o certificate of achievement
- ICT support or course
- o work experience
- $\circ \ \ \text{revised CV}$
- \circ job interview
- o job
- Give out 5.3a and 5.3b



6.3 Resource Top 10 LLN Skills at Work

| Number | Speaking and Listening | Reading | Writing |
|--|---|---|--|
| Arrive at work on time and plan time effectively | Respond to questions from colleagues and customers | Understand Health and Safety information | Complete personal details (name address etc) on forms |
| Write down sequences of numbers accurately | Follow verbal instructions | Read instructions | Complete accident report forms |
| Understand the importance of accuracy in number calculations | Ask questions | Read forms | Complete personal information (work and education details) on forms |
| Make calculations using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division | Greet colleagues and customers appropriately | Read directions | Complete time sheets and work related documents |
| Make calculations of fractions, decimals and percentages as required | Talk to colleagues and customers, using appropriate and polite language | Find and read information from operating manuals | Write telephone messages |
| Weigh and measure to required tolerances | Give verbal instructions | Read reports | Write other messages, notes and memos |
| Use calculators accurately | Contribute to meetings | Read timetable, maps, charts and other graphical information | Write orders, receipts and invoices |
| Make money calculations, check pay slips accurately | Take verbal messages and pass them on to colleagues | Read technical information | Write emails |
| Calculate area and volume accurately | Use technical language | Use reference skills to find and sort information | Write reports on progress or production difficulties |



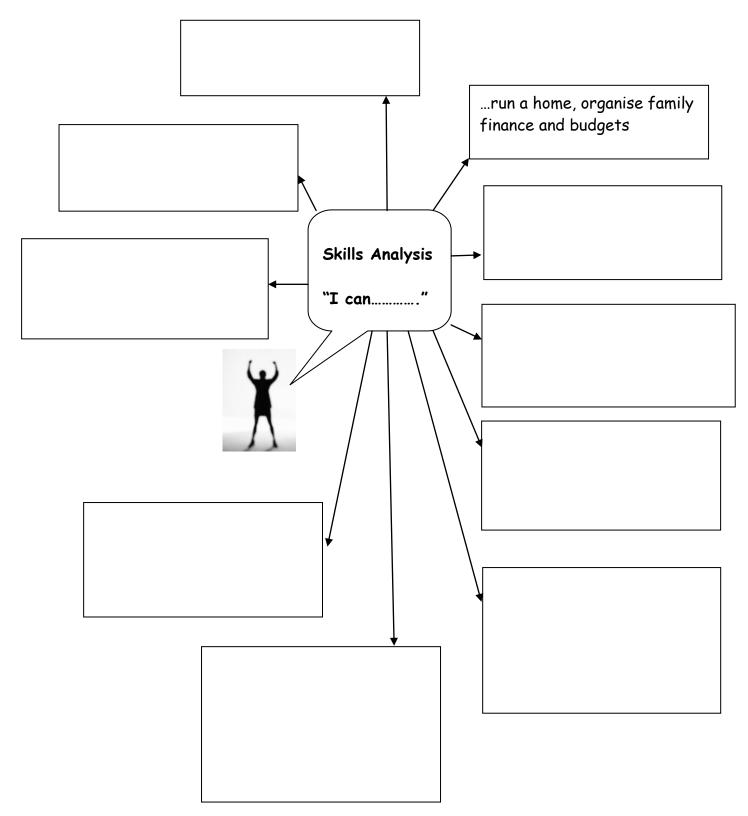
6.4 Trainer notes Skills for Employment

- Ensure there are enough people to create the 4 lists for the top 10 LLN skills required by employers.
- Groups or individuals guess and list on flip chart paper what they think might be the top 10 LLN skills required for work.
- As people finish give them a copy of the skills handout from the 'Business Toolkit'.
- When completed put flip charts up to compare.
- Pick out one or two to elicit what some of the difficulties someone might have for staying in employment, so the focus becomes as much staying in a job as getting a job interview
- Pick out an example from the list to break down further and set goals.
- Highlight 'Arriving at work on time and plan time effectively'. This requires getting into a routine. We all know what to do, but how do you teach such a familiar skill? You break it down into smaller steps. An example can be given of teaching someone to stand up from a lying down position. You have to break down each movement into single activities expressed in words.
- Ask the group to consider problems that might occur when getting into a routine. Suggest telling the time correctly which we may take for granted. Ask the questions:
 - Do all the customers own alarm clocks?
 - What if you cannot read the time from roman numerals on a clock?
 - Can everyone use 12 hour and 24 hour methods for telling the time?
 - Is everyone aware of the differences in reading the date in British or American format? (10. 9. 2011 or 9.10.2011 – numerical reversal of month and day).
 - Might some customers come from a culture where turning up at a particular time is not the norm or considered important?
 - 1. Why might this be?
 - 2. How might this be tackled?

See if you can find other tasks that we take for granted that can be broken down further.

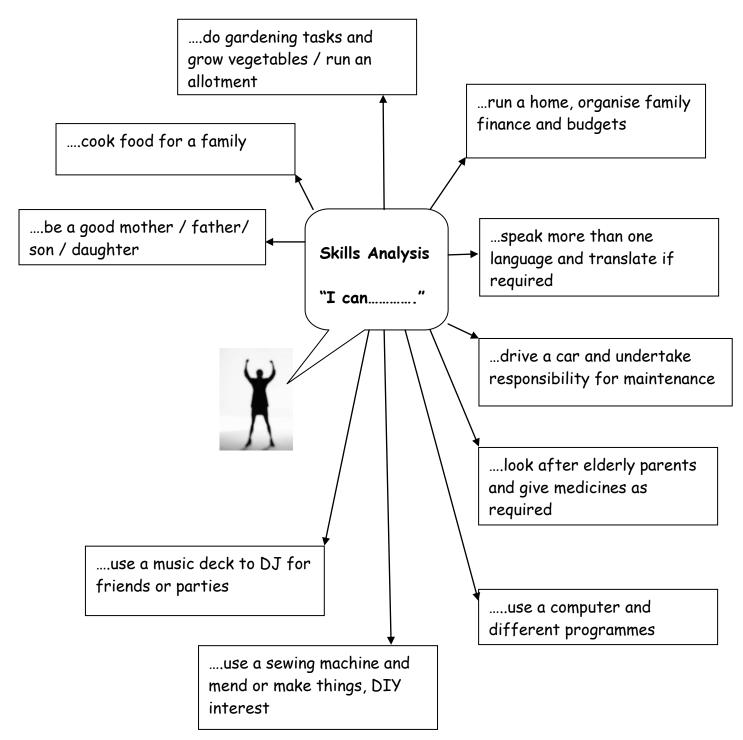


7.3 Resource "/ can....."

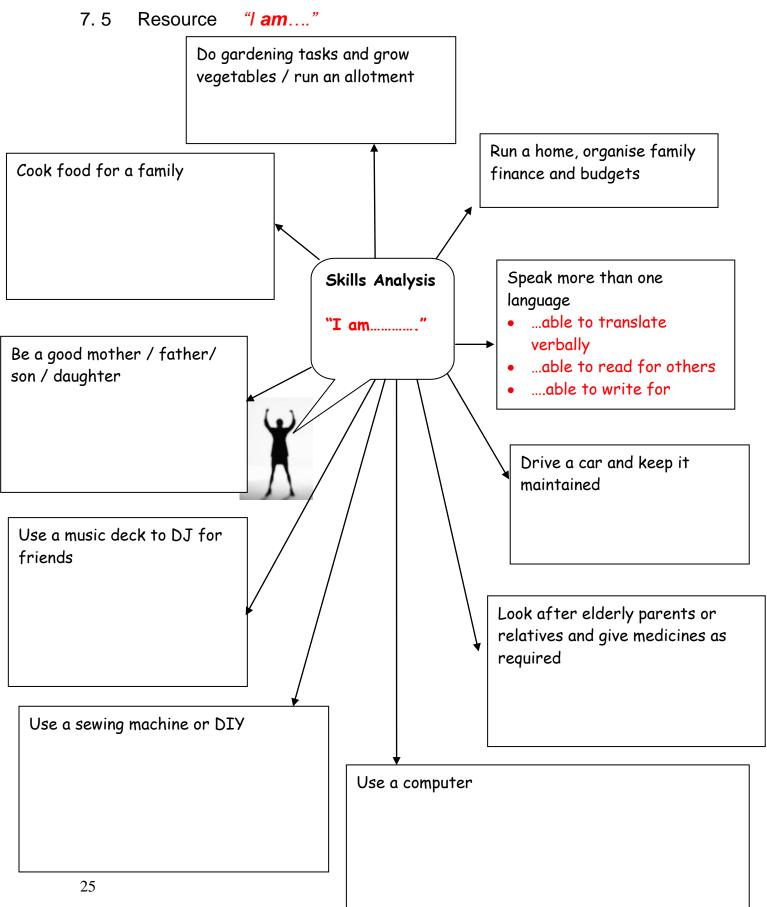




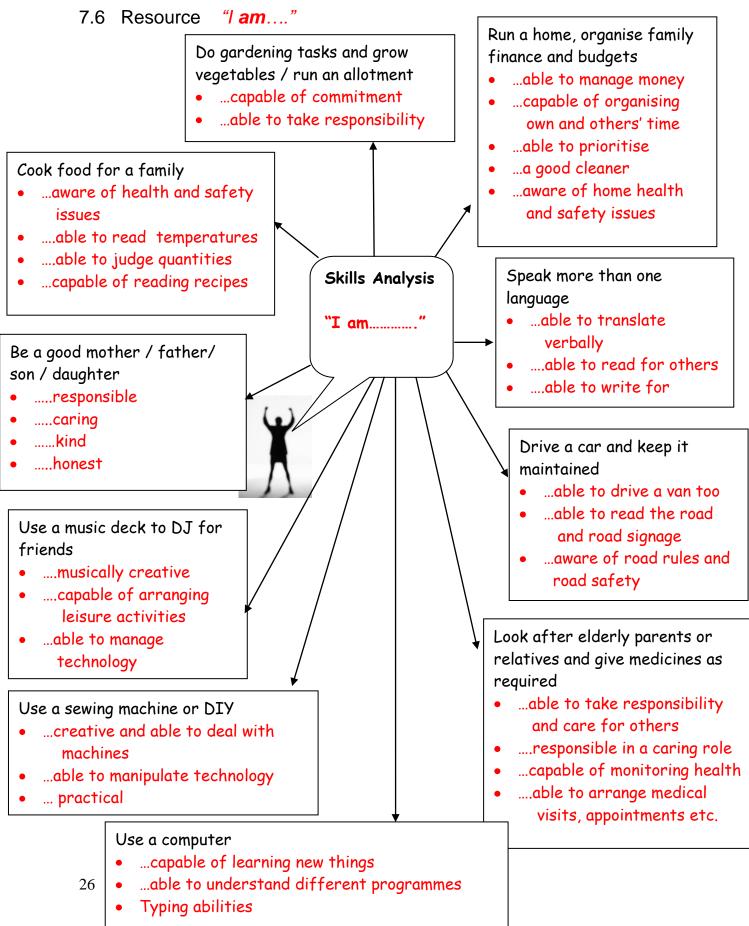
7.4 Resource "/ can....."













7.7 Resource Transferable skills and workbased opportunities

| Current Practical Skills | Transferable personal skills and attributes for the workplace | Workbased opportunities |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Cook | safety conscious use weights and measures in different ways follow recipes | |
| Driver | confident in traffic aware of health and safety able to read maps able to decode signage | |
| Cyclist | confident in traffic aware of health and safety able to read maps able to decode signage | |
| Care for parents or others | reliable, polite, patient, listening skills, empathy practical domestic skills organisational skills | |
| Bi-lingual and fully literate in more than one language | language abilities capable of further educational commitment fluent reader/ good writer | |
| Sewing machinery skills or DIY abilities | use machinery problem solving safety conscious | |
| Caring for children | reliable, sympathetic, patient, listening skills, empathy, caring organisational skills problem solving | |
| Play an instrument or DJ | musical creative manual dexterity | |
| Computer literate | confident with technology able to read manuals or diagrams typing abilities | |



7.8 Resource Literacy and Language development for the above tasks

| Current Practical Skills | Transferable personal skills and attributes for the workplace | Workbased opportunities |
|---|---|---|
| Cook | safety conscious usse weights and measures in different ways follow recipes | able to cook in a school or restaurant or undertake a qualification in this context |
| Driver | confident in traffic aware of health and safety able to read maps able to decode signage | able to work in a delivery context, to use directions and find places; able to negotiate routes. |
| Cyclist | confident in traffic aware of health and safety able to read maps able to decode signage | able to use directions and negotiate traffic, undertake a delivery role (post office) |
| Care for parents or others | reliable, polite, patient, listening skills, empathy practical domestic skills organisational skills | caring in a professional context or undertaking a qualification |
| Bi-lingual and literate in more than one language | language abilities capable of further educational commitment fluent reader/ good writer | develop language skills with additional qualifications or work in ethnically mixed communities |
| Sewing machinery skills or DIY abilities | Use machineryProblem solvingSafety conscious | use machinery in a manufacturing context, build new skills development |
| Caring for children | reliable, sympathetic, patient, listening skills, empathy, caring organisational skills problem solving | classroom assistant role; consider foster care (undertake training); nursery assistant |
| Play an instrument or DJ | musical creative manual dexterity | self-employment; leisure industry roles |
| Computer literate | confident with technology able to read manuals or diagrams | able to manage picking and packing roles that involve computers or working in an office environment; retail outlets |



7.9 Trainer notes

- Highlight that this activity requires literacy and language input and may be new for some learners with little confidence or language skills to promote themselves. Explain the idea is to encourage learners to verbalise positive words about themselves which can then be translated into the words for a CV.
- Give out the handout 7.3 for participants to complete explaining this is about *"Things I can do...."* They can then complete the task but ensure the skills are personal skills at this stage rather than career based skills.
- Trainers facilitate and encourage, point out that the idea is to encourage thinking and reflection to support confidence building and that some of the participants' learners might find this quite difficult to begin with.
- Give participants the completed example 7.4 to compare with their own.
- Explain that the next task is to convert the types of skills listed into personal qualities, *"Things I am..."* to build up a vocabulary list of qualities as well as skills.
- Give out handout 7.5 in order to list personal qualities.
- When complete give out handout 7. 6 for comparison.
- Finally give out handout 7.7 for the skills to be seen as transferable into the workplace. Ask participants to complete the third column. Emphasise how the tasks are designed to show how skills and attributes are transferable and can become part of a CV.
- Take feedback on the task.



Further suggestions:

- Successful learners who have been helped into work could be invited to return to give a short talk and answer questions (these can be pre-prepared as part of job interview techniques).
- Photos can be placed around the wall showing local work placements and a short blurb on the type of work available and the skills required.
- Participants (especially mothers and fathers) can be encouraged to undertake a classroom support course or after school homework activities related to children.
- Actively recognise individuals' interests and skills such as in cookery, hair styling, music, ICT (use of facebook / web design) or sports activities etc. Encourage participants to build an online profile that can be included as a link with online application forms to build a stronger picture of the customer.



8.2 Trainer notes Resources

- Have a laptop or computer available
- Show the range of online Core Curriculum resources in the Employability section of the site and ensure everyone knows about it and can use a password to access the site.
- Participants explore the resources online if there are enough computers or show them the resources for them to explore later.
- Print some handouts of the different resources for participants to view if you do not have access to a laptop or computer. You may wish to have some available in addition to the online Core Curriculum.
- Create a carousel for participants to view with a range of resources such as:
 - Onine Core Curriculum on laptop or other computer
 - o LSIS website resources printed out
 - Books:
 - ✓ Employability Starter Kit
 - ✓ Business Toolkit
 - ✓ Teaching Basic Literacy Skills to ESOL Learners