

SHAHD

Background

Shahd is in her fifties. She has been in the UK for about a year. She came as a refugee with her husband and three of her children. She is originally from Syria but spent time in Jordan before coming to the UK under the Syrian re-settlement scheme

Languages

Her first language is Arabic which she can read and write well. She had no English at all before she came to the UK.

Use of digital technologies

She uses a smartphone in Arabic. She uses Google Translate, watches videos and talks to her family in Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Previous education and employment

She finished school and college and then worked as a primary school teacher before the family moved to Jordan.

Access to ESOL

She studies pre-Entry ESOL in a local authority class for eight hours a week. Her caseworker helped her find the class and she joined it very soon after coming to the UK. She comes twice a week but thinks she needs more time in order to improve. Sometimes she finds it difficult to come because of problems with her health.

Engagement in ESOL provision

She feels that she is learning very slowly. She can read a little but finds writing and speaking very difficult. She needs the teacher to give her more time to write things down. She would also like more repetition as it seems as if they cover a topic once and then don't revise it. However, she also feels that the class is too slow-paced for other learners who can progress more quickly.

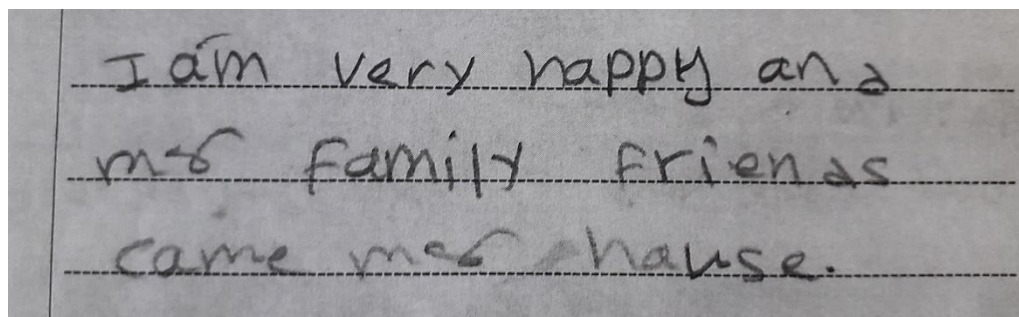
Outcomes and benefits

She wants to be able to integrate and speaking English is the most important way to do this. She doesn't have much chance to practice because her neighbours are Arabic speakers. Her English class is also a chance for her to meet different people from different nationalities and she values the opportunities to socialise.

Advice for others

It's important to differentiate between different kinds of learners. Not everyone should be in the same class as some people can learn much more quickly than others.

Writing sample
Level of writing sample



Entry level 1 ESOL (Consolidating Entry 1)