

ACL Initiative Project Report

Name of project lead	Louise Farmer
Name of organisation	Solihull College (Solihull MBC)

Brief description of what you proposed to do

We would anticipate using this equipment within the settings of our Family Learning provision. Types of programmes could include Family Literacy Language and Numeracy (FLLN) and Wider Family Learning. The mini-computers could be used with larger screen monitors and linked to interactive whiteboards. Photos can be downloaded and stored in individual learner files, for learners to access as they are building workbooks, story boxes, or portfolios. Tutors can keep photographic, as well as learning plans (RAPRA) evidence showing learner outcomes and progression. Lesson plans / schemes of work, tutorial presentations / demonstrations can be stored to aid delivery.

Summary of your project *(How did your organisation integrate the mini laptops and camera into e-learning in your Adult Education Service?)*

The laptops and camera were used primarily by one of our FLLN tutors who delivers full time in outreach centres across the borough. The laptops proved useful for planning lessons and storing e-resources which were shared with groups. The digital camera was the most used resource and has been used to record and evidence progression and the final portfolio. The FLLN courses are a mixture of 12 – 20 GLH programmes and require learners to create a bank of resources to use with their children – the internet and word processing facility is invaluable. The digital camera was used by all staff to inform and support RARPA.

Evaluation of project

The use of ILT in our courses is part of our continuous quality improvement therefore trialling new technology proved an extremely useful tool. The digital camera was a complete success and it is in our plans to buy another for the team to use. Staff have used it to record work from learners as well as using it to create their own resources. It has also been used by learners to support them in creating resources for their portfolios.

Staff have reported that the portability of the kit has made a difference to them using IT with their groups – they are able to transport more resources easily. However, student feedback has been that they do not find the machines easy to access – screens too small and keyboards difficult if you are not IT literate. Many of our learners do not have access to machines at home and are new to using technology, the laptops are not ideal for ‘beginner’ users.

It has been good to trial the 2 different operating systems and even though the Linux is different to our systems at college the built in games have proven popular and also useful for inspiring learners to make their own Literacy or Numeracy based games. Once again, using this system with ‘beginner’ learners was not easy as any I.T experience they had was with windows and this felt to some of them like they were starting again and was confusing.

We could not always access a wireless connection in some of our outreach centres even though we had the machines ready, it would be useful to have a Dongle facility as most students wanted to use the internet for research.

Project outputs

- Increased use of ILT in FLLN.
- Development of RARPA process.
- Increase in quality of student coursework
- Sharing of good practice across other ASL provision
- Increase in signposting to further IT learning

Any plans for the future?

We hope to buy another digital camera to use within the area.
Evaluation will feed into college business planning linked to IT provision.