

## **From feeling worthless to self-confidence and independence**

“ I feel I am now being a good role model for my son. I can show him it’s good to learn and encourage him”

Emma left school at 16 with no more than a handful of GCSEs. While studying at college for a qualification in hairdressing, she found herself pregnant and had to put her career aspirations on hold.

Emma spent the next few years dedicating her life to raising her son.

However, in 2005 she decided to make a change and signed up for some food workshops and numeracy courses at her local centre and has since passed exams equivalent to maths GCSE.

She said: “ I thought that would never happen. It is so good to come from feeling worthless to being a self-confident, independent young lady. I have loved learning over the past three years. It has helped my confidence to grow, meeting other people working towards the same goal.”

Now Emma has a job working part-time for South Gloucestershire Council as a learning champion. She is also a peer mentor for the Willow Tree, an organisation that supports women through crisis pregnancy.

In 2007, Emma was presented with a Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy award from NIACE as part of Adult Learner’s week.