

How can we use enquiry to help learners become more confident and independent?

Independent evidence

Supporting young apprentices in building and extending their study skills was found to be a key factor in helping them become more independent learners. One approach that proved to be particularly effective involved the learners in carrying out their own research (or enquiry), bringing the information together and presenting it to the others i.

Your evidence and reflections

While collaboration and reporting back to a group is feasible for students on college courses, or in large organizations with whole cohorts of trainees, it can be difficult for young people who are training in isolation. If this is the case for your trainee, it might be worth exploring the alternatives. Consider and note down, for example, whether it is possible for them to:

- work alongside or observe a development project team within your organization
- participate in a project being run by the relevant department in your local college
- link with trainees and apprentices on similar courses in your locality,
- get involved in a volunteering project.

Putting the evidence to work

Once you have looked into the options for your trainee(s), discuss with them their options. You could do this by listing the advantages and disadvantages next to each option. One disadvantage may be lack of time. It is therefore important to explore with them in detail what the learning and career benefits may be.

i Find out more about the young apprenticeships programme here:

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/assets/Internet_Content/Shared_Content/Files/2007/dec/youngapprent.pdf

You can find out more about volunteering projects at: www.volunteering.org.uk

Follow this link for more on the TLRP Learning as Work project:

www.tlrp.org/proj/phase111/felstead.htm