

Carers and Learning

*“The door is open
for every carer to
put a question.”*

Mohammed Hanif



This is one of a series of small portraits of carers talking about the impact learning has on their lives. The carers featured face particular barriers to accessing learning; carers from minority ethnic groups; carers who are disabled; young adult carers (16–25) and carers who live in rural areas. Their stories highlight the importance of access to education for all. Under the Carers Equal Opportunities Act (2004) carers have a right to have their learning and work needs assessed as part of the carers' assessment procedure.

Mohammed Hanif cares for his two disabled adult children. He is a member of the Ehsas Carers group based at Dudley Muslim Association.

Mohammed Hanif describes the group as:
About carers. If you have a problem it is where you can go. It is about how to look after yourself and learn about looking after your child.

The group has a support worker who acts as an interpreter and runs courses for carers that provide information and advice about accessing services such as housing, occupational therapy, epilepsy support and benefits entitlements. The carers have also learnt about recognising and managing behaviour problems:
You have to be prepared to fight for your children You need this course when the children are young. You learn things you need to know about to look after your children. If I sit at home I don't learn anything. I come here to learn as much as possible.

For further information about access to learning and training for carers, visit www.niace.org.uk

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