



L2_Paths Project

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Language Advice Sessions

Case Study

Partner: TLC

Language Advisor: Stefania

Date(s) of Advice Session(s): 5th January 2016

Learner Description:

Name, nationality, approximate age, life situation

E moved to Italy a year ago with his family. He is 18 and he hasn't finished secondary school yet. He now needs to find a job but his Italian is too poor. His goal is to reach level B1 within 6 months to feel able to interact properly with his future colleague at work. He has very good IT skills and would like to work in the computer field.

Assessment of the Learner's language learning goals, their skill levels, learning styles, and preferences

E's goal is to reach level B1 within 6 months to feel able to interact properly with his future colleagues at work. He has very good IT skills and he would like to work in the computer field. Using the Pathfinder platform the student tested his level and he resulted to be an A1 so to reach his goal he needs to study at least 160 hours in classroom, in addition to hours of self-studying. E at first was very suspicious and needed a lot of time to trust other people.

What advice were you able to give them

So I suggested to him:

- To attend two free courses run by the town municipality, group courses consisting: the first one in 60 hours to reach level A2 and the second one in 100 hours to reach level B1, right after the previous one.

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- At the end of these two cycles, the student should attend another group course, in a private school, to reinforce what already studied and to enlarge his vocabulary.
- Self-studying: being very good at ITC I focused his self-studying on the use of graphs/charts/diagrams to organise words, sounds and grammar structures and the use of IT resources to study, so I suggested him free web sites for foreign people, with videos, extracts and grammar exercises in Italian.

What was their experience of learning after your advice? Was it successful? What problems did they have?

E weak point is that he often loses his motivation because he feels he is not good enough, so the first thing I did was to agree with him a very tight follow-up calendar. We have been meeting three times a week and each time I:

- Encourage him to focus on his strengths
- Lower his anxiety (changing negative beliefs and creating a relaxing learning environment)
- Acknowledge, celebrate and reward his successes
- Get him involved in the learning process
- Develop the brain's learning ability which is responsive to novelty
- Break down his goals in smaller attainable ones

Your observations about your interaction with this learner.

During our advising sessions I spent lots of time talking to him and letting him feel comfortable, at his ease, trying to break the emotional barriers that E life and background could have built in relating to other people. In the end I succeeded in creating a trustful relationship with him and I moved to work on making him a little bit more self-confident day by day. It is not an easy path for him, but he feels very proud anytime he steps forward his final goal, this make us work more harmoniously.