



Name	Linda Somers
Job Title	Learning Support Coordinator

How long have you worked for ITS?	Since November 2013 (self-employed), January 2015 (employed)
What's your background?	I taught music to babies and children for 11 years before moving into Learning Support and working 1:1 and in small groups with young people with a variety of learning needs from ADHD to dyslexia and dyspraxia and with children with Down's Syndrome. I trained to become a Specialist Teacher at the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre and still support a small number of students through the centre in addition to my work with ITS.
What does your work involve?	Finding different ways to help learners understand maths and English so that they can achieve their Functional Skills and Apprenticeship.
What's the best part of your job?	Those penny dropping moments when learners realise they CAN do it! Watching learners grow in confidence and achieve academically when they thought they were unable to do so.
Who's been an important inspiration to you?	Bernadette McLean at the Helen Arkell Dyslexia Centre, who is so enthusiastic about the positives of dyslexia.
If you could change one thing in this world, what would it be?	People's attitudes to the hidden disabilities of the world – dyslexia, dyspraxia, mental health etc.
What's your favourite motto?	If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all (Thumper the rabbit from Bambi)
What do you like doing when you're not working?	Making music – I play in 3 bands and have my own brass quintet
What's your favourite film?	Love is a Many Splendoured Thing
What's your all time favourite song?	You'll Never Walk Alone from Carousel

