

BIRMINGHAM, JUNE 2015

INTERVIEW WITH MOTHER OF JOEY

FAMILY DETAILS:

Joey is the middle child of 3, with a new baby sister of 18 months.

He sees his father at weekends and they enjoy a good relationship.

Maternal grandmother and step-father are present in Joey's life and they take holidays together.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CLIMATE:

The atmosphere at home is described as settled and stable. Joey's father tends to be more lenient with him.

Mother is quite relaxed about Joey's learning and says that she won't push him.

CHILD CHARACTERISTICS:

Joey is always searching for new experiences and is easily bored, and in need of contact stimulation. He is described as very outgoing, curious, and independent, and is generally a content child who is happy to sit down and draw without seeking attention. His mother claims she never went through a 'terrible two's' stage with Joey, and was always able to distract him with pens/drawing, etc.

HOME EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES:

Joey has recently had an iPad, and has always had plenty of books, colouring pens, paper, etc. He enjoys playing with bricks, colouring pencils, educational toys, such as ABC teddy bears. His mother encourages an approach of working hard and being rewarded, and uses praise and encouragement freely.

Timings and routines are very well established and formal, e.g. teatime, TV time, bathtime, talking time, story time and always a 7.30 bedtime at the latest for all children since they were little. The family always eat together at the table.

There is also firm behaviour management and the mother makes use of the 'naughty step' and other sanctions, alongside rewards for good behaviour.

PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES:

After a week's uncertain transition period, Joey settled in and loved his time at nursery, quickly gaining confidence and joining various groups, e.g. Messy Play. He enjoyed outdoor activities, but equally enjoyed other activities offered at the setting. His mother tried to ensure that she

mirrored at home what he was learning in school, e.g. baking cakes, an activity which they both enjoy together at home. He liked both of his teachers. Mother is appreciative of the relaxed approach taken by the nursery, always explaining things well without being pushy and allowing children to follow their own interests.