

## OXFORDSHIRE, JULY 2015

### INTERVIEW WITH MOTHER OF NOAH

#### **FAMILY DETAILS:**

Noah lives with his mother, older sister and younger half-brother. His mother works part-time. The father of Noah's younger brother was also around for a period when Noah was two.

Other significant figures are Noah's grandfather, a social worker who has always been nearby and very supportive, and an uncle.

#### **FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CLIMATE:**

Noah's early years were a period of extreme stress, with his mother experiencing post-natal depression, domestic violence and drug rehabilitation. Noah was allowed to remain with his mother throughout rehab, and this was, she felt, an important factor in his success.

Things are now settled and a clear routine established, with very regular bedtimes, bath times, etc. Noah's mum stresses the importance of politeness and manners and tries to make sure that time is set aside to sit and learn with Noah.

She has attended a parenting course and has learned from this the importance of praise, and of explaining why a child shouldn't do something rather than just issuing instructions.

#### **CHILD CHARACTERISTICS:**

Noah has always enjoyed making things and needs to be busy. He is described as hyperactive, cheeky, loving, energetic and helpful. He has good powers of concentration but can get angry when frustrated. He likes to be physically active but also loves reading and is good at spelling. He enjoys being 'the man of the house'.

#### **HOME EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES:**

Mother is not a reader herself but reads to the children. She encourages them to 'always try your best' and to let them know that she is always there for them.

Noah spends time with his grandfather and uncle, a strong role model who enjoys fishing and playing football with Noah.

#### **PRE-SCHOOL EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES:**

Noah attended a day nursery between 0-12 months and between 1 and 2 attended nursery school and. During this time he was also cared for by family members until starting preschool from the age of 2 for 15 hours spread over 5 days a week.