

## OXFORDSHIRE, JULY 2015

### INTERVIEW WITH MOTHER OF MAX

#### **FAMILY DETAILS:**

Max lives with his single mother who is currently working part time. Circumstances have changed radically since Max's birth when he lived with his grandparents who have now both died. Max had a particularly strong relationship with his grandfather who was very 'old school' in terms of insistence on good manners, routine, eating dinner at the table, etc. He would spend a lot of time reading and playing and watching videos with Max; they were, in his mother's words, "very close" and had "a real attachment". After the death of his grandparents, Max and his mother moved house and the style of parenting his mother has adopted is very much on the same lines as that of the grandfather – a deeply loving relationship with clear boundaries and routine.

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

Max seems to have a secure and stable environment in which his mother sees clearly the importance of "spending time and being interested". As a result, they have a very close bond and spend a lot of time together.

Max's mother described some difficult periods during Max's life but that together they had coped. – Max's mother explained that his resilience had helped her cope during the more difficult moments.

#### **CHILD CHARACTERISTICS:**

Described as a happy, contented, sociable and curious child, Max likes football, computer games and drawing. He also achieves well at school sports. He enjoys reading to his mum and they do lots of talking together. He shows a strong capacity to concentrate and focus on tasks. As a 2 year old, he was keen on playing with trucks and sand in particular, "spending hours" engrossed in these activities. Max has always been happy to play on his own but enjoys and appreciates playing games and interacting with other children.

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

There are lots of toys and books in the house and Max's mother buys him books which he reads to her. When Max was younger, she would read to him. Max's mother did not teach him to read or write before starting at

school but they did have (and still have) a very "chatty" relationship where they would go for walks and talk about what they could see and what they were doing. They eat meals together and have conversations about what they are doing on a day-to-day basis. Max would go everywhere with his grandfather and subsequently with his mother, and participate in the daily activities of life, such as going to the shops and would be included in activities like counting out money to pay for shopping.

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

Max attended pre-school for 3 mornings weekly from the age of two and a half, increasing to one full day and 2 mornings at the age of 3. He developed a strong relationship with his key person and enjoyed his time there. He started to learn to write and participated in activities such as painting. Max's mother appreciated the opportunity it gave him to interact with other children.