



CASE STUDY 2

SCARBOROUGH, JUNE 2015

INTERVIEW WITH MOTHER OF ANDREW

FAMILY DETAILS:

Since moving out of his grandmother's house at 2, Andrew has been living with his mother and her partner, and has had a younger brother, now aged 18 months. Mother is currently looking after the home and family full time while her partner works part time.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CLIMATE:

The household is described as 'fairly calm' apart from some tensions between Andrew and his brother. Andrew experiences a good, positive home life. The family environment is very routine-driven and has been from the outset, with very regular patterns for dinner, bath time, story-time, bed etc. Although the mother describes herself as being 'quite strict' with Andrew, she says he is a well-behaved boy and her approach has always been "It's all about Andrew and N being happy...it's all I want for them". She also wants both boys to do well at school, in contrast to her own experience. She confessed to being "surprised to get the letter" asking her to participate in the research but was obviously pleased to have his achievements recognised.

CHILD CHARACTERISTICS:

Andrew is described as chatty, fun-loving and inquisitive. At the same time, he is quite a shy boy who tends to prefer his own company and adult engagement, though he now has friends at school (not previously, at pre-school). He tends to take things very personally and can be affected profoundly by name-calling, etc. He can also be quite demanding when he wants to do things, and can throw tantrums when frustrated. He does not cope well with a change of plans. He enjoys being outside with his Dad, doing things like bug-hunting and playing on scooters, and also enjoys drawing and technology. Other favourite activities include baking, playing with cars, going for walks in the park and feeding ducks, especially with his grandmother.

HOME EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES:

Parents always ensure that homework is done and are passionate about the children reading. There are cupboards full of games and books in the house. His mother always tries to be praising and encouraging, and will always put him at the centre, showing him his value, telling him he can achieve anything.

PRE -SCHOOL EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES:

From 0-12 months, Andrew was looked after by his mother at home, attended a Day Nursery between 1 and 3 years and from 3-4, he stayed at home with his mother. At 4, he began attending a nursery class attached to a primary school.

Andrew did not have a positive experience in pre-school, but made a good transition to primary school.