

SCARBOROUGH, JULY 2015

INTERVIEW WITH MOTHER OF TOM

FAMILY DETAILS:

Tom lives with his mother and his stepfather. Neither are currently working due to long term sickness, but they have worked in the past. Tom's grandparents live nearby and take an active part in his life.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND CLIMATE:

Family environment is described as happy. Tom sees his grandparents every week and has a very close relationship with them. As a baby, he would often stay over with them and he became inseparable from his grandfather, playing trains with him and watching trains at the station. There was some household stress when Tom was 3 when his mother was ill. The mother and the stepfather acknowledge Tom's success and effort and try to instil in him the idea that "to get nice things, it helps to be nice." Treats are linked to endeavour, effort and good behaviour. They both have aspirations for him to succeed and are careful to give challenges rather than to criticise. The approach is to offer praise wherever possible and not dwell on the negatives – "put a lid on it!" They are careful to explain

choices to Tom regarding behaviour and to constantly reinforce the message about good conduct.

CHILD CHARACTERISTICS:

Tom is described as a loving, affectionate child, always wanting and happy to give cuddles. He was shy at first but then developed a cheeky personality. He likes to be given responsibility, to have a specific job to do. For example, he now has little jobs in the home, such as putting toilet rolls away and putting dirty clothes in the laundry basket. He enjoys playing with trains, and knows train stations by rote. When there is something that he loves, he grasps information easily and remembers it in detail. He is always reading, using Maths when playing on his till doing puzzles. He tends to cling to his stepdad and follow him around. He's enjoying TV, Xbox, guitar and having fun together.

HOME EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES:

Routine is seen as important and clearly established in the home environment. There is a lot of talk and explanation and an emphasis on perseverance when things are difficult.

PRE-SCHOOL EXPERIENCES AND ACTIVITIES:

From 0-12 months Tom had a childminder but joined a day nursery at 2 and from 4, a nursery class attached to a school. Tom enjoyed nursery from the beginning and felt emotionally secure and attached to key persons. During this time, he grew in confidence and made friends. He enjoyed lots of imaginative play, for example with Lego and learned a lot through play. Tom's mother said she "felt settled and knew he was in safe hands".