

PLAYWORK OUTCOMES



Family Support Work

Charity No. 285337

Family one:



A single mother living with her 3 year old boy and 1 year old girl. They live in a top floor flat in a village and have no car. The 3 year old is extremely active and can play aggressively. He also is a fussy eater and seems too busy to eat. His mother finds it difficult to keep him amused and care for her young daughter at the same time. What this family really need is accommodation with a garden directly linked to the back door. The mother cannot supervise her 3 year old in the garden from their top floor flat.

Once a week for a two hour period I go and play with the young boy. We play outside the flat on his scooter, tractor or with his golf set. He really needs outdoor play. Sometimes we go to the local park. This gives him time to release some energy and his mother time to tidy her flat or see to chores she couldn't do whilst trying to supervise him. Monthly I drive them to the swimming pool in the nearest town which is approximately 15 miles away. The young boy loves swimming but the mother couldn't supervise both of them in the pool at the same time, also transport on the bus is costly and time consuming. Currently I take the one year old to the park whilst Mum has time with her son in the pool.

Family two:

A single mother living with her 9 year old boy. They live in a second floor flat in a village and have no car. The mother is severely disabled and suffers with depression and the boy is also disabled without a chance to play other than in his flat. His mother cannot take him out and about because she cannot walk far/nor drive. He also doesn't have friends into the flat for dinner/play or sleepovers because his mother has epilepsy and she is worried she might have an episode whilst caring for another person's child.

Once a week for a two and a half hour period I go and play with both of them. I walk to school and back, with Mum, to collect the child. The mother struggles on this short distance. I then play with the child preferably outside the flat or at the table. When playing inside with various table activities I try to include the mother too to cheer her up. We do have fun. I also use the walk to school to chat to mum about day to day things. I am trying to encourage the mother to have one of her sons friends for tea after school whilst I am there.



Family Three:



A single mother living with three children in a house in a village. The children are aged 5,7 and 9. The mother has uncontrolled epilepsy and has a regular daily carer. Two of the children have epilepsy and autistic spectrum disorder, the third child does not.

I play once a week for a one and a half hour period after school. One of the boys, aged 5, needs extra attention so I always play with him which gives the other children special time with mum or a chance to do quiet activities whilst the 5 year old is with me. We go to the park or ride scooters outside or play with toys in his bedroom. Whilst we play I try to teach him the social skills needed to play with other children. i.e taking turns, not cheating and playing kindly, rather than aggressively.

Family Four:

A single mother living in a village with five children. A 13 year old girl who is severely autistic, an 11 year old girl, a 7 year old girl, a 4 year old boy and a 1 year old baby. They live in a house, the mother does not drive. I take the 11 and 7 year olds out during the school holidays because their mother cannot manage 5 children at once. These children rarely leave their very isolated village and rarely go swimming or on day trips out. I either take them swimming or to local farms. They love getting out and about and doing things other families take for granted.

Family Five:

A single mother family of three children, a boy aged 11, and two teenage siblings. I had finished playing with this family but continued to go to TAC meetings with the mother with the aim of securing CAMHS help for the youngest child. He is aggressive, violent, hyperactive, under weight and had problems sleeping. Between us at the TAC (Team Around the Child) meetings we managed to get this child referred to CAMHS for weekly visits for at least a year. Also support for his siblings was gained from WSCC. I have stopped attending the TAC meetings now we reached our goal.



Family Six:

I supported a single mother who lives in a village with her 5 year old boy and 13 year old boy. She felt she needed support because her youngest had a fear of eating and the two children together argued. I worked with them for 6 weeks. I played with them in their garden or in the house.