

Adam's story...

Name: Adam*

Age: 2

Service: Family Contact

Background

Adam was referred to our service in respect of having supervised contact with his father Mr Williams. Adam resides with his Mother Miss Heart and had not seen his father since he was six months old and therefore, did not have any memory of Mr Williams. An order was made by the Family Courts for Adam and Mr Williams to have supervised contact on a fortnightly basis for one hour. We were advised that there had been a break down in the relationship between Mr Williams and Miss Heart.



*Names have been changed to protect the identity of the child and his family. Stock Image.

What we did

Meetings took place with Mr Williams and Miss Heart separately, where a contact plan and risk assessment was devised. Given the time that had elapsed since Mr Williams had last seen Adam, it was agreed that a number of preparation sessions were appropriate to ensure that he was comfortable with the environment. We ensured the same contact supervisor was allocated to the family to provide continuity for Adam as well as his parents. Our preparation sessions allowed Adam the opportunity to become familiar with the contact centre, the contact supervisor and further alleviated some of the concerns and worries both Miss Heart and Mr Williams had. Adam was offered continual reassurance where required and over the following months, the contact sessions between himself and Mr Williams became more positive. The working relationship between the contact centre team, Miss Heart and Mr Williams also became more positive, as both parents began to realise that everyone's priority was Adam's wellbeing.

Outcomes

Our contact team were able to successfully support Adam throughout this journey, whilst also being able to address the worries and concerns both Miss Heart and Mr Williams had. Contact between Adam and Mr Williams became more positive and later included Adam's paternal grandmother, with whom he quickly began to also form a positive relationship with. Following the final court hearing, contact between Mr Williams, Adam and his paternal grandmother moved outside of the contact centre, and later became unsupervised. Adam now enjoys a positive contact experience with Mr Williams and his other paternal family members, spending time at the park, days out and weekends away. We wish Adam and his family all the best in the future and look forward to supporting other families who are referred to our service.



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