

Kimberly's story...

Name: Kimberly*

Age: 32

Service: Parenting Assessment

Background

Kimberley was referred to our service for a parenting assessment, following the removal of her Son Teddy at birth. Kimberly was known to the local authority and had children removed from her care previously. We were advised that Kimberly had learning difficulties and presented as quite vulnerable.



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

What we did

Once we were in receipt of all of Kimberly's and Teddy's background information, a small team of three social workers and family support workers were allocated to the family. This small team ensured familiarity and continuity for both Kimberly and Teddy. Consideration was given to Kimberly's learning difficulties, with our team ensuring the parenting assessment and engagement was adapted appropriately. Our assessment was undertaken at varying times throughout the day with the aim of gaining a holistic perspective of Kimberly's parenting capacity. Throughout the assessment, Kimberly was offered support, guidance, role modelling and feedback, which allowed her the opportunity to demonstrate her ability to retain and implement the teaching that was provided. Through this approach our team were able to establish a positive working relationship with Kimberly, based on honesty and transparency.

Outcomes

Our approach to this assessment helped to promote Kimberly's engagement whilst also ensuring she had the opportunity to demonstrate her ability to retain and implement the guidance and teaching that was offered. Throughout this assessment, our team were able to gain a holistic and evidence based perspective of Kimberly's parenting capacity. As the assessment progressed, it became apparent that despite Kimberly's best efforts and clear love for Teddy, she was unable to meet the ever changing and growing needs of him. The outcome of the assessment was discussed with Kimberly in a sensitive and empathetic manner and due to the established positive working relationship, she was able to identify and understand the long term recommendations for Teddy and why these were being made. As a result of our assessment, we were able to deliver to the court an on-time, robust and evidence based report with clear recommendations. Our team ensured appropriate emotional support was afforded to Kimberly at what was an extremely traumatic time for her, in addition to capturing memories of their time together.



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