



Foster care fortnight – the final bulletin

What a fortnight! The fostering team are busy processing seven enquiries – all of whom are coming to our information evening on Wednesday. It promises to be a packed and informative evening, so if you know anyone else who would like to come, do let us know. It is exciting to think we could potentially have seven new families to add to our team!

Our foster carers have really enjoyed the attention they have been receiving from fostering fortnight! They enjoyed Chessington and are looking forward to a meal out altogether. A couple have talked about how nice it is to be recognised in the daily bulletins. One of the highlights was for Lou and Matt who both really enjoyed being on the radio as well – hope you all got to hear it on Monday.

To end the week, today's bulletin gives you an insight into the world of a fostered child. In future fostering bulletins, there will be more of these from our own young people. Today's is taken from an anonymous young person through the fostering network.

A week in the life of a foster carer's daughter



Monday

Woke up at 7:30am: "must be time for the kids to be up for school. If only they could be a bit quieter but never mind at least they're attending".

Get up at 9am, glad to see that Michael's remembered to screw the toothpaste lid on - that's considerate of everyone else - hope Ellie's remembered her P.E kit and has a good day today.

Out to college at 10am.

In from dancing at 7pm, lovely to hear about Michael's good day at school and that he's excited about starting Youth Club tonight. Hope he has a nice night, he'll make some nice friends.

Ellie's off to Girls Group tonight although she's not too keen tonight, one of the girls gave her a "funny look" last week. Hope it works out - she's in a routine now and she enjoyed it before that happened.

Michael comes back from Youth Club about 8.30pm full of news about who was there and what they did. Glad he enjoyed it but now he's constantly looking for distractions when he should be having a shower/bath and getting ready to settle in bed to sleep at 9:30pm. He'll be in a funny mood tomorrow if he's tired.

Ellie comes back from Girls group at 8pm - she's "never going there again" - oh no, that means I don't have my free time with my mum anymore. How disappointing, maybe we can find something else of interest but then again Ellie's a tricky character.

Tuesday

Woke up at 8:30am: "It's nice that I got a lie in this morning". The children must have considered me this morning - that's progress.

Came downstairs to find that Ellie has drawn me a picture to apologise about "having a go". It was that she was upset about contact that had happened on Sunday. I hate it that contact can upset them so much, but I know it'd sometimes be worse for them if they couldn't have contact because they are still attached to their parents.

Bit disappointed Michael is wearing a dirty polo shirt, I mean it's his uniform, surely he can see there is food all the way down it. He's been told so many times to put his dirty washing in the basket and lay his clean uniform out the night before - I should've checked, I know my mum had a lot of things to do last night. Out to college.

Came back from dancing to hear Ellie has completed her swimming course with a good mark, time to help her with some homework. She's making lovely progress with fractions, it's nice to see some hard work paying off and to see the time I spent has been worth it.

Michael's had a good day too, must be something in the air! He enjoyed his football at school - he'd love to go to an after school club with his friends from school, it's a shame school can't supply that. We'll have to see if there is a class at a leisure centre he can fit in one night of the week, he could make some friends doing that too.

Wednesday

Woke up at 9am this morning, long day ahead of me. Lots of dancing today, I missed the children this morning as they were up soon for school.

Came back from dancing 8.30pm. It's been such a long day, think I'll jump in the shower before having an early night. Will have to be before tea as the children will be back from their activities in the next half an hour and will both be needing the shower/bath.

I pass Ellie as I use the bathroom; she seems in a good mood 😊

Didn't see Michael at all today, but as far as I've heard he seems ok, mum says he was a little disappointed that trampolining was cancelled last minute but he was chuffed that football was on instead.

Contact tomorrow for Michael - slight change of mood, I think he's a little anxious. However, I'm sure he'll enjoy it when he's there and will be happier when he returns.

Thursday

Woke up and ran out the door this morning, Ellie was unwell last night and I slept in a little. Came in from dancing to find Ellie looking a bit brighter watching TV - glad she's feeling better.

Michael's very independent - that's really good because he doesn't need constant attention and can amuse himself without it costing lots of money. He's currently on his rollerblades, he's really getting the hang of it now. Before he came he'd never been on roller blades and now look at him - no fear what so ever, he's jumping and everything.

Ellie can be independent but likes company more so we sit and watch Corrie together, she can get a bit talkative but she's usually alright if I ask her if she can hold on till the adverts unless it's important. I enjoy Ellie's company as I am the only one in the house who watches Corrie and it's nice to have someone sharing the same interest as myself.

Bit upset that Michael is making a big fuss about tea again!! Think it's really unfair on my mum that he won't even try it. Think I'll start a rewards chart to take some of the pressure and upset out of the situation for the future. Maybe it's because he ate lots of sweets at contact, I wish they could understand the reasons we'd prefer them to have the sweets after tea.

Friday

Woke up to find Michael making breakfast. He still seems in an off mood so I ask if he wants to talk about it but he'd rather not - maybe he'll change his mind later.

Ellie's in a funny mood too but after asking if I can help her with some fractions she's struggling with she seems to brighten up. It took a bit of getting out of her what she wanted as she's not used to asking for help. Ellie's at Brownies tonight doing her cookery badge, I hear she was very excited.

Michael's at a friend's house, a bit worked up that he couldn't stay over but he couldn't get his permission in time as this was last minute. His only response: "but my friends don't need that".

Both children in evening routines tonight and relax with a video in their bedrooms. Glad the week has gone without any major problems, it's been pretty positive overall.

Final quiz question

- a. Name seven people in the asphaleia fostering team as of 27th May 2011
- b. For an extra point, identify their job titles

Don't forget to get your quiz answers to me by Tuesday 31st May at 5pm. The prize draw will take place on Wednesday.

To find out more about becoming a foster carer with asphaleia please contact the fostering team on 01903 236522 or visit our website <http://www.asphaleia.co.uk/ventures/fostering.html>.