

ADOPTING A FAMILY APPROACH

Case Study 2

The Watson Family

Ben Watson, age 5

I like being at school. The teachers are really nice to me, and I get to do drawing and writing and play in the sand. And my favourite is reading stories, happy ones, where children go on adventures and have big surprises. I wish my life was like the stories; happy.

I don't really have many friends. They can't come round after school, so they don't really bother with me anymore. Dad says I can have a friend round but I never know what mood mum's gonna be in so it's safer not to.

Most days when I get home, I go straight upstairs. I check on nanny. Sometimes mum is a bit rough with her and she's old. I worry that one day she might get hurt badly. Then I go to my room and read and draw; it's better to be quiet and not make any noise, then they might forget that I'm home.

I like it when dad gets home, except sometimes Mum goes mad at him. I don't really understand why.

The childminder drops Grace off just after dad gets home. If mum's in a bad mood, dad just comes upstairs and looks after me and Grace and we go to bed early. I feel safer when dad gets home, I know he will look after me.

