



<u>PARENTS NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>CHILDS NAME</u>	<u>AGE ON ARRIVAL AT AMBER</u>	<u>TIME AT AMBER FAMILY</u>	<u>SETTING</u>
Maddison	20	Freya	8 weeks	18 weeks	Amber Grange

Maddison was referred to Amber Family on 28<sup>th</sup> August 2018 and began her placement with Freya, who was 8 weeks old. Maddison was living with her boyfriend, Kevin (Freya's father) at the time in a flat. The Local Authority were concerned about Freya's health and wellbeing due to Kevin's previous history and whether Maddison was able to keep Freya safe when Kevin was around.

Kevin was very manipulative and constantly lied to Maddison who at the time, felt very controlled by him. His lies and behaviour continued to get worse which led to Maddison and Freya being moved into Amber Family. Still committed to her relationship with Kevin, Maddison continued to have contact with him, and weekly visits were arranged so he could continue to see Freya, although these visits were only allowed at the setting. It wasn't long before things started to go wrong for Maddison; she admitted that she would do anything for Kevin although she felt he was taking advantage of her.

Unfortunately, during the time that Maddison and Freya were having contact with Kevin, Maddison's parents refused to support her, and this made her placement even more difficult.

Prior to being placed at Amber Family, Maddison was originally allocated to another service which was closer to her family. However, after doing some investigation, she decided that it didn't seem the right place for her and Freya. Maddison was then offered a placement at Amber Family and after spending some time going through our website, she finally decided that Amber Family was the better choice for her.

When Maddison first arrived at Amber Family, she was very nervous, she said that she was just a "normal person" who had unfortunately entered into a relationship which had placed Freya under the observation of the Local Authority. She was scared and agitated and was unaware of what the next couple of weeks would bring and whether the outcome would be that Freya would be allowed to stay with Maddison or not. She was very anxious about the CCTV in her room and was conscious of being watched at all times; she hated it!

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After contact had been taking place between Kevin and Freya for a number of weeks at Amber Family, during one contact session, he made an inappropriate comment about a member of Amber Family staff. Even though he immediately retracted his allegation, Maddison knew that he wasn't committed to her or Freya and Maddison made the decision to end the relationship.

Maddison admitted during her Key Worker Meetings that she would have done anything for him, but she has now realised how manipulative he was and didn't want him to behave this way around Freya; the relationship with him was too toxic and she was very sad to have lost her relationship with her parents.

Maddison started to believe in herself again; from feedback from Amber staff, she knew she was a good Mummy to Freya, and she was invited to be involved in a Restorative Meeting with the Amber Family Restorative Practitioner and her Mum and Dad to see how they would all be able to move on from the impact this situation had on their lives. During the initial meeting, unfortunately things didn't go to plan and the meeting was called to a close early. However, after a great deal of discussion, telephone calls and good contact sessions between Maddison, her parents and Freya, all parties have now resumed their relationship and Maddison's parents are pleased that Kevin no longer plays a part in the lives of Maddison and her daughter.

Whilst living at Amber Family, Maddison and Freya have spent a lot of time in the community, getting involved in various activities and they especially liked going to the Salvation Army Parent & Toddler group and Freya loved the sensory play which was available at the setting, run by a member of Amber Family staff.

Maddison described life at Amber Grange as, 'very happy' and she had a very supportive Key Worker who helped her believe in herself again. In Maddison's assessment report, Amber Family made a recommendation that Maddison and Freya move on together as a family and Maddison was overwhelmed and couldn't believe it when all was agreed for them to remain together.

A young frightened girl who arrived at Amber Family and ended up spending a total of 18 weeks at our setting and left us to take residence in one of Amber Families moving on facilities, has grown into a young woman who has an excellent relationship with her daughter, Freya, and nothing is going to stop them being together. Maddison continues to build up her relationship with her parents and has said they are now, 'closer than ever'.

Maddison's assessment has now stopped although we do call in on her regularly to make sure everything is going well. Maddison is hoping to move nearer to her parents at the end of February where she will have the support of her family around her.

Freya is such a happy baby, always smiling and loves cuddles.

#### Mum's Advice

When I first arrived at Amber Family, I decided to keep myself to myself although living in the same house as other family's is not always that easy as we were always in communal areas with each other. If you are not happy with anything you must always tell your Support Workers and build up trust with everyone as you will soon realise they are all there to help you. I discussed some content that I wasn't happy with which had been put into one of my daily logs. The staff investigated and the wording was changed which I was grateful for.

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Towards the end of my placement I was still aware that the CCTV was always there and watching, but I felt comfortable with this as I couldn't have wished to have the nicest people working to fight my corner.

#### Amber Family's Summary

We were pleased to welcome Maddison and Freya when they first arrived at Amber Grange. On her arrival, it was apparent that she had never been in trouble previously with the Local Authority and was overwhelmed with the situation that she found herself in. We quickly welcomed her into the setting and made her feel at home as quickly as we could.

There were never any doubts about Maddison's ability to parent Freya; she's an excellent Mum. It's unfortunate that a relationship choice put Freya at risk, but Maddison has consistently demonstrated her commitment to put Freya first.

Seeing the transformation for Maddison over the past couple of months has been such a joy to be part of and we look forward to seeing them both at our annual BBQ in the summer.

#### MEMORIES



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