



<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>
Tanya	25	Erin	24 months	22 weeks	Amber House

Tanya became involved with the Local Authority as family members were very concerned about her being in a relationship which involved domestic abuse and having a young child, so they made contact with the Local Authority who visited Tanya to carry out an assessment. They advised Tanya to move out of the property that she was sharing with her boyfriend and suggested she should go to live with her Grandmother for a while, which she did. During the time that Tanya lived with her Grandmother, the Local Authority raised concerns that Tanya's daughter Erin was being emotional neglected.

Tanya recalled that one of her previous Social Workers mentioned that there was a possibility for Tanya to be assessed in a 'Mother & Baby Unit'. Tanya was confused and didn't understand how serious the situation had become; she thought that the Local Authorities were 'just making threats', however, when she realised that the placement at Amber Family was arranged, Tanya recalls feeling very scared.

Tanya had been allocated a new Social Worker who had been involved with parents who had been assessed by Amber Family previously, and he managed to secure a place for Tanya & Erin for an initial 12-week placement. Tanya remembers on the way to Amber Family her Social Worker said that, 'It wasn't like a hotel', and she would be fully supervised at all times, via CCTV link and even within the community at the start of her placement. Tanya remembers feeling sad and nervous at being watched all the time and the fact that she wasn't allowed out on her own made her want to cry but as Erin was with her, she didn't want to show her how upset she was.

At the start of Tanya's assessment, she started to attend courses such as The Triple P Programme, which is a parenting and family support programme designed to prevent, as well as treat behavioural and emotional problems in children and teenagers.

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Tanya also enjoyed the Gateway Programme which was run by one of Amber Family's accredited members of staff. The Gateway Programme covers healthy relationships and attending these sessions can contribute to an individual's journey to reaching a place where they may feel able to make choices and consider their relationship options.

Tanya also engaged in direct work sessions around budgeting, childhood illnesses, support network, one to one cookery sessions, self-risk assessments, healthy eating and food planners and had the opportunity to attend family outings to Farmer Teds, although the first outing Tanya mentioned that one of the other parents spoiled it for her, but she enjoyed the second visit. Tanya loved attending Craft Club, making things for Erin and Tanya stated that now she's home, she still looks at her craft books.

Every parent at Amber Family is allocated a Key Worker who works with the parents throughout their assessment period and Tanya initially felt that these meetings were sometimes 'brutal'. Tanya also said that some of her Key Worker meetings were challenging but towards the end of her assessment she realised that they were very fair, and she finally understood how important they were.

Tanya had regular contact with her twin sister and her Mum with supervised visits being arranged at 2-week intervals. Tanya's Key Worker arranged for her sister to visit at Amber Family who she had not had any contact with for 3 months previously and her sister was able to attend Erin's 2nd birthday party at the setting. It was also arranged for Tanya to have contact with her Aunt and Uncle at the start of her placement, however, their relationship broke down during placement and no other contact took place. Tanya remembers the feeling of joy being able to go into the community with her family without any supervision towards the end of her placement.

Tanya developed different relationships with staff whilst at Amber Family and she mentioned that at first, she feared her Key Worker but during her assessment time she gained trust and a positive relationship with her. Her Key Worker attended every Local Authority meeting with Tanya and she said she always felt reassured by her presence. Tanya gained confidence in meetings and could talk more freely about her feelings and what she hoped for Erin and herself in the future.

When asked if Tanya thought she had made progress throughout her placement, she said that the weekly Key Worker meetings helped her; she felt lucky to have been granted a further 6-week extension at her placement with Amber Family as she felt she wasn't quite ready to leave. Tanya said that the staff were always very honest with her and had her best interests at heart.

At the end of Tanya's assessment, she remembers feeling anxious about receiving her PAMs Report as she didn't know what the recommendations would be. Tanya was pregnant at this time and she didn't feel ready to leave Amber Family's care but after receiving a positive report and recommendations, she knew the next chapter of her life was going to be hard but being able to have her future with Erin as a family made her feel confident for her future and proud of what she had achieved whilst at Amber Family.

Mum's Advice	Tanya admitted that when she arrived at Amber, she felt no maternal bond with Erin and that she didn't recognise what Erin needed for her development. Tanya mentioned that when Erin was born, her family had taken control over the care of
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	<p>Erin and at the time she accepted this. Tanya recalls that Erin also stayed with different family members at their houses over the weekends before the Local Authority was involved.</p> <p>We asked Tanya if she felt differently walking out of Amber to how she felt when she arrived? Tanya said that she was very happy to go home with Erin and has since given birth to a baby boy. Tanya doubted herself and thought that she was unable to be a Mother; she knows it going to be hard with a new born and a toddler but she feels ready for the challenge ahead.</p> <p>Without Amber Family Tanya says that she doubts that she would love Erin the way she does now, and they have created a bond like they never had before.</p> <p>Tanya's advice to other parents is to work openly and honestly with staff at Amber Family and always listen to the advice you are given as they are always there to help you.</p>
<p>Amber Family's Summary</p>	<p>Tanya arrived at Amber Family after being in an abusive relationship. She was scared and nervous as she didn't understand the severity of her situation. She didn't want anything to do with Erin; there was no communication or emotional contact from her and initially, Tanya was angry at being told that she would be monitored in her room via CCTV and whilst out in the community.</p> <p>Tanya was very unresponsive when she first arrived but within a couple of weeks she settled into life at Amber and felt more comfortable with Erin and the staff. She looked forward to regular visits with her Mum and sister and wanted so much to be involved in learning courses and all activities held at our settings. Gaining her certification on the Triple P and the Gateway Programme was great to see the sense of achievement on her face and she began to believe that she could take on responsibilities and handle any difficult situations she may come across in her future for her and her family.</p> <p>During her assessment period we all saw Tanya improve; she was always asking questions if she was unsure of something and took on board our answers. Erin loved being with the other children at the setting or during Parent & Toddler groups and sometimes gently took on the role of hugging and helping with the other babies and children.</p> <p>We feel very proud that Tanya has matured and has turned her life around, she is more confident and loves spending time with her two children. It is always lovely to hear from Tanya and to find out how she is progressing.</p>

MEMORIES



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