

Children's Services – Case Studies

Case Study – Start Well Family Centre

The Story

The Family have been known to the Family Centre since Jayden was a baby, their second baby arrived soon after Jayden and this added additional pressure to them. Mum needed a lot of encouragement to attend activities at The Start Well Family Centre as she lacked a lot of confidence and was struggling with her mental health but with a lot of support she was able to come in and start to make a positive contribution to her own wellbeing.

Their second child was diagnosed with autism and the family were supported at Early Help, Jayden has been diagnosed with autism and has moved around schools frequently in order to try to meet his educational needs. He is currently having a tutor twice a week but is not in a full time setting.

The family now have 4 children and their third youngest child is now going through a diagnosis. Mum is waiting to be assessed for autism as her journey with the children has made her realise that some of the challenges they have are what she struggles with too. Parents recognise that their challenges are far from over but they have worked hard to build resilience and feel more equipped to manage their family life.

The impact of our work

Our approach had a direct impact for the children and family through:

- Excellent multi agency work with the family, school and health providers
- Children have been supported to understand their learning needs
- The family were supported through diagnosis of autism and autism and ADHS for the oldest 2 children. The family now have the skills to manage this for their third child without Start Well support
- Supported Mum to grow in confidence to be able to leave the house and join a wellbeing group
- Mum became a volunteer and went on to set up her own business providing adult learning wellbeing and craft courses at the local Community Centre, she is also completing a degree through the Open University.
- Mum has become a Champion for other parents who are going through a diagnosis for their child and is essential peer support for many of our families
- Encouraged Parents to consider their own learning needs

What will we do next?

Mum is regularly seen in the Centre as she volunteers here. Jayden is supported to access tutoring using a room in one of our linked sites. The family are confident that they know what to do to support Jacob through his diagnosis and how to manage family life considering the needs of their family.