

JAMIE AGE 4

Jamie was born prematurely and had to spend several weeks in hospital. His parent's marriage had always been strained and a month after Jamie returned home his parents split up. His mother became depressed and unable to cope with Jamie. Her own mother provided support and Jamie regularly spent a few days in his grandmother's care to provide his mother with a break. By the time Jamie was a year old his mother began to recover and her care of Jamie improved. When he was 18 months old, however, his grandmother died suddenly. His mother had a serious relapse and was hospitalised for a month. Jamie was cared for by foster carers. Since then he has had three short placements with different carers when his mother has been unwell. Jamie's mother loves her son but finds his demanding and aggressive behaviour hard to manage. Jamie is difficult to settle at night and is often anxious and upset.

Jamie sees his father weekly and is clingy with him and distressed when his father leaves. His father is about to take up a job on "the rigs" which means his contact will reduce to fortnightly.

Jamie has been at nursery since he was three but found it hard to settle and has poor relationships with other children. He is behind in his developmental milestones at the level of a 2 - 3 year old, e.g. not yet dry at night or able to dress himself. His speech is poor and if he cannot get his own way he is liable to have massive tantrums. He is about to start at primary school.