



Case Study – Complex Needs

R is a 9 year old boy that lives at home with his Mum, Step-father, his ten year old brother and two year old sister. R has several conditions which affect both his mobility and behaviour namely –

- Undiagnosed behavioural problems.
- Special education needs.
- Cerebral Palsy (spastic dysplasia)
- Sensory neural hearing loss (R wears a hearing aid)
- Blighted testes – bilateral
- Bowel obstructions and a tendency to be constipated
- Severely long sighted (R wears glasses)
- Panhypopituitarism

R finds it very difficult to communicate his wishes and can become very aggressive as a display of his frustration. He has often lashed out at his Mum and family as well as care staff. Our staff provide Mum with support daily to wash, dress and feed R before school. At weekends we provide additional support to Mum by interacting with her other children so that she might spend some alone time with R. Both R and Mum benefit from this.

In total, four support staff work with R and his family; they have all received specialist training in Epilepsy, Behaviour Modification Techniques, De-Escalation Techniques and Emergency Medications. All specialist training was arranged in partnership with Children's Services and R's school.

Through a lengthy process of communication with his parents and stakeholders (including Children's Services, Scope and his school) it was decided that R might enjoy and benefit from a more active life, including more stimulation over weekends and school holidays. Previously, because of the family home situation, R was often just left in his buggy while Mum attended to the other children who are equally demanding of her and their Step-father's time. A Person Centred Plan was agreed with Stakeholders and a full risk assessment carried out to enable our support staff take R in his buggy twice a week (and daily during holidays) to the park. The walk is over an hour and the worker engages R in conversation and points out things of interest on the way. Once in the park R can then come out of his buggy and walks very slowly (whilst holding on to his buggy on the grass). He likes to go to the duck pond and his Mum usually gives him some bread to feed them.

R can only walk for short distances as his legs are displaced and he tires easily, however it has been noted that his stamina is improving and most importantly his general behaviour has seen a marked improvement. During the winter months it has been decided that R will still enjoy the fresh air and long walks in his buggy - due to the night closing in his worker arrives 1 hour earlier.

R is often a happy boy and his interests are simple, he attends regular day care and he often is sat surrounded by other children, he social skills are improving month and month.