

Interview with Cindy

+Cindy/Toby 5 mths, care for 2.5 mths

Q.11: Can you remember back to how you felt the first week or so that your baby was in child care.

CINDY: Yeah, I hated it. Even when he was here with me. I hated it. I really did. Because well you know you look at the floor, there's sand in the carpet and you vacuum it till your fingers are worn out but it's still dirty. No, like I couldn't put him down on the floor or anything he was always in a bouncinette - he wasn't getting any development or anything or stimulation. Um now I don't mind so much but at first I didn't like it at all. Because he was getting sick and dirty and I couldn't ... I was really confused because I wanted to work but I also needed to look after him at the same time and I thought well I'm not giving my best to the job but now that I'm organised its OK.

JAN: So what do you think changed your mind.

CINDY: Probably he's got over being so sick. He's a little bit older now and so I don't mind so much. He's got to get germs eventually...can't keep him in a bubble. Um, so I don't mind so much. He can roll around on the floor he can do things for himself. So I don't mind. Sometimes I still get a bit upset when he get some yukky bits in his mouth but ... ah well there's not much you can do.

Q.12: How long has he been in day-care now?

CINDY: Since he... he wasn't quite 3 months. About 12 weeks.

Q.13: How do you feel about it now?

CINDY: Yeah no I don't mind now.

JAN: So your emotions have changed since the first few weeks.

CINDY: Yeah definitely. Yeah I don't mind now. We are in a routine. He knows the routine now ... he knows the place he doesn't cry...much, you know..only normal. I don't mind.

Q.14: If you were perfectly free to choose, how would you have arranged your life since the birth of your baby?

CINDY: Well I definitely wouldn't have worked. If I had the money, I would probably be just at home doing house work - trying to keep up with the house work although I think being at home and having the baby would be a lot easier I mean it's hard in different ways but at least you should be able to keep up with your house work um with your nappies and things like that. That's what I'd be doing. Running errands whatever.. go visiting mum or play basketball. I used to play basketball six weeks after I had him. Girlfriends have all got babies. Yeah that's what I'd do.

Q.15: And in the future - if you were perfectly free to choose.

CINDY: Yeah. Um, well I was looking at doing mothercraft nursing course which is two years full time. Or four years part-time. So I would probably have done that and then bought a centre.

Q.16: Is there anything else you would like to add?

CINDY: It's hard because I know what child care's like I've got I've really got more of a negative view against it I think than what a lot of parents that don't know what goes on during the day. Um I think it's good for kids because they're with other kids - they learn a lot quicker - more sociable - um but as .. which .. it doesn't matter where you go you can't get the one to one attention that a mother can give. We give them love like cuddles and you know, things like that and feed them well and look after them there's a lot of physical needs but there's something's missing which that you just won't get anywhere they just have to be in the home. Child care's good but I don't think that if I wasn't working in it that I could leave him. I suppose you get used to it after a while. You have to if you haven't got a choice. A lot of parents get really upset about it. Some of them sit in the car and cry after they leave their baby. Now that I've had a child I can really feel for them, but before I thought ah you know the baby's alright five minutes after they've gone but it's hard for the parents to.