

TRANSCRIPT:

Marley's teacher: Okay, if can we move on to views of parents, Janice and Pete, if there is anything you want to add which we haven't already discussed?

Janice: Yeah, we talked about what we were going to put into our report at home and we talked to the other people who live with us. My mum lives with us and his older brother. I was saying to Leslie as well that everybody has noticed the difference. He's far more mature. He's more reasonable. You can compromise with him. He's not as aggressive as he was – at all. I used to have permanently scratch marks across my neck. He was always hitting us, kicking us, just totally frustrated. And then the CLDD project started and we just found that the changes that happened to him over that time since the project started were just amazing really. The changes in his attitude to everything, his behaviour. He actually started sitting on the settee at home. I mean this was – we never noticed him doing that before. And he just started sitting in chairs instead of always sitting on the floor. He sort of become on eye level and started to become an adult. And we just think the change in him is really, really important to note. Everybody in the family has made comments on it. I can remember the first day with Barry here and we spoke to a little boy who came up and had an ordinary conversation with us, said good-bye and then walked off and the teacher said, 'What is your aim for Marley when you come here?' and I said 'For him to be able to do that. To walk up, have a conversation and turn away and walk away without somebody holding him back or – you know – encouraging him to talk all the time.' And he has done that, he has blossomed. He's far more open. We had a time where he couldn't walk from one room to another because of the change of carpet flooring. He doesn't do that anymore. And it's just like he relaxed and because of that he is just absorbing a lot more. He's a lot more biddable at home, isn't he?

Pete: He is.

Janice: Most of the time. (Laughs.) He's still very stubborn, still wants his own ways, still does dangerous things like take a chair and climb up on the wooden surfaces. He'll sit on winter ledges. He still does all those things. But he's changing, he's becoming a young man. And we're sure that's all down to the change of class. And the way his needs are met really.