

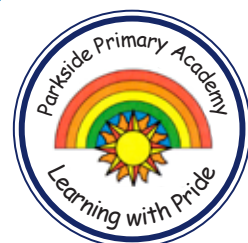
Kayleigh's son had certain problems to deal with but with the care and compassion of Parkside Academy he is making all the progress she could wish for

Kayleigh Hoyle and her fiancé Daniel live in Royston with Kayleigh's son Cameron, who is six.



A difficult transition

Kayleigh has many reasons to be grateful that her son was accepted into Parkside Academy. Having had to move house unexpectedly, she had to take Cameron out of his Nursery and find a place for him at a different school at Reception Year, but it was a difficult time for everyone. "We'd been given notice that our house was going to be sold and had only a month to move out, so everything had to be done in a rush. It was also a worry that Cameron doesn't take easily to a change in his routine and having to go to a different school where he didn't know anyone was not easy for him at all. Fortunately, his teachers at Parkside were lovely and although he struggled with the transition at first, it didn't take too long for him to settle in."



Understanding and reassurance

Fairly early on, Cameron had started to show signs of autistic traits and although he has not been diagnosed, Kayleigh can recognise some of his behaviours as consistent with the condition. "When he started school he wouldn't socialise with the other children and used to stand by himself, staring through the window. He also had a developmental delay and as a result was not toilet-trained, and this was a real concern as many schools will not take a child who is still in nappies. The staff at Parkside were absolutely wonderful and were quite prepared to make sure someone would change him whenever necessary. They also gave me tips on how to help him and he's now completely independent, but I appreciated the fact that they were very understanding and reassured me he would get there in his own time."

Leaps and bounds

During his first year at Parkside, Cameron was given an Independent Education Plan to help him catch up and since then, says Kayleigh, he has come on in leaps and bounds. "He is reading really well, much more sociable and has made friends, which is lovely. It was so hard for him to have to move to a new school because of his problems in interacting with people he doesn't know but he's made a great improvement and is much happier now. The teachers and support staff are very approachable and make a big effort to address any issues: at one point, Cameron was making a fuss about doing his homework and I realised he was finding it difficult to hold his pencil. When I mentioned this at school, on the same day they found him a special holder to improve his grip and it worked perfectly. Things like that mean a lot."

Overcoming the challenges of parenthood

All parents find their children challenging at times and although Kayleigh didn't have any major problems with Cameron's behaviour, she occasionally found him hard work. For that reason, she decided to enrol on the Solihull Parenting Course run at Parkside and found it useful in several ways. "It gave us ideas on dealing with behavioural

problems and how to understand the way children think. Mostly, it helped me by giving me the chance to talk to other parents who were facing similar issues, and made me realise I wasn't the only one by any means who was experiencing difficulties. It was well worthwhile."

Although Cameron is now doing well at school, both academically and socially, Kayleigh is confident that his teachers will keep an eye open a check on him in case any further autistic tendencies occur, and she knows she will be supported whatever happens. "The only current indication I have at the moment is that he is totally fixated on football chants, and he is the only child I know who can sing dozens of them – even those from International teams!" One has to admit, that is pretty impressive for a six-year-old!

Children say

Cameron: "I like learning about the times tables and the countries on the map."



Learning With Pride

Parkside Primary Academy
Midland Rd
Royston
Barnsley
S71 4QP

Tel: 01226 722416

Email: parkside@pioneeract.org.uk

Web: <http://www.parksideacademy.co.uk>

