

Transcript of NSPCC video excerpt from ‘The Child’s World’

*Sound of knocking on door
Loud talking from inside the flat*

Sylvia Walker: Hello. Lorraine Witchurch?

Lorraine Witchurch: Yeah...

Sylvia: My name’s Sylvia Walker. I’m a Social Worker from Oldport Social Services. I wrote to you about a week ago to let you know I’d be calling. You did get my letter?

Lorraine: Umm, I dunno.

Sylvia: Well, is it ok if I come in and talk with you?

Lorraine: Umm, yeah, well I suppose so. Come in.

Sylvia: Thanks.

*Young boy (Lee) babbling about book
Other child (Shane) banging saucepan and spoon*

Lee: *(babbling)* What’s that?

Sylvia: *(to Lee)* It’s Barney.

Lorraine: You can sit down on there.

Sylvia: Thank you.

Lee: *(babbling)* Barney!

Lorraine: *(lifting up Lee from sofa)* Let Mummy sit down.

Sylvia: Now, Lorraine. The reason I’m here is because someone called us because they thought you may be having some difficulties coping with the children.

Lorraine: Well who said that? I bet it was that nosy cow from next door.

Sylvia: I’m sorry, I’m afraid I can’t say, but when we get information like this we do need to find out how you’re coping. It’s not easy looking after two little children, especially when you’re on your own.

Lorraine: I’m not on me own all the time. Well, Lee’s dad comes round sometimes.

Sylvia: Oh, how often does he come?

Lorraine: Well, weekends. He takes the kids of me hands for a bit. And me Mum comes round as well in the week. I – I sometimes see Shane’s dad, but he don’t come round as much cos he’s got problems.

(to Lee) Leave him alone. You’re too old to play with those. Go and switch the cooker off for me and come back here and watch the telly.

Sylvia: Oh Lorraine. Don’t you think it’s dangerous for Lee to be using the cooker?

Lorraine: No, he’s fine. He does loads to help me. He looks after Shane in the morning and he gets his own cornflakes. I need my sleep and he’s always up early.

Sylvia: Does Lee go to nursery?

Lorraine: N-no, not anymore. He used to though.

Sylvia: And why doesn't he go there anymore?

Lorraine: Th-those other mothers were all stuck up and we were always late. Well, the nursery was the other side of the dual carriageway and we have to walk all the way down one side to the crossing, and then back up the other side. And the staff there said that the clothes I put him in weren't good enough.

Sylvia: What was wrong with them?

Lorraine: Well they said they weren't warm enough for him, but I know they were fine. And they said that he kept fighting with the other kids and that he bit a girl.

Sylvia: And what did you do about that?

Lorraine: I did tell him off for biting that little girl and I sent him to bed without any tea. But you can't stop boys from fighting, can ye? I mean, they all do it.

Shane cries

Sylvia: What about Shane? How are you finding him?

Lorraine: He has his moments. He drives me mad with his whinging. He's always got a cold: one cold after another.

Sylvia: Have you seen the doctor?

Lorraine: Yeah, but he gives us some medicine for his ears, but he – he don't eat properly. Trying to feed him is a nightmare. Yesterday I made a cottage pie, but he wouldn't eat it until I forced it down him. And then he sicked it up all over the settee. I was fuming – little bleeder did it to spite me.

End