



# LEYA Good Practice Guides

## Case Study 1 - Supporting Refugee Families

Before coming to Headingley Preschool, A's early experiences involved living in one room with her mum in a refuge for women fleeing domestic violence. Mum's only connections were family in Pakistan, a cousin in Birmingham, and the refuge. As the family did not qualify for funding, the local Children's Centre asked if we could offer some free sessions to A.

We spent time with Mum, to see when she would be able to bring A to Headingley Preschool, taking into account when Mum needed childcare to be able to access services and classes at the adjacent Children's Centre. A had very little English, and was initially wary of preschool. By patiently establishing a relationship with Mum, we were able to gradually reassure A that she would be safe and cared for. By supporting both mother and child, we were able to settle A into preschool over a period of time, until she arrived happily and with increasing confidence into our setting, eventually attending every afternoon for over a year.

We provided guidance on parenting and school admissions, and offered help to Mum with paperwork relating to A. In order to support A's development outside of preschool we shared books, toys and creative materials.

The impact on A was a joy to see. From a withdrawn, frightened child with no English and little social experience, A became a happy, confident girl, who was able to start establishing her own friendships, communicating in English, and developing in all areas of the EYFS.



A Mum was empowered to attend classes at the Children's Centre, and was eventually able to make the move to be near her cousin in Birmingham. We were both sorry to see them go, and also extremely proud to have been able to play a part in A and her Mum's lives.