

# Phoebe Grace's transition

**Tracy Studders**

Family Worker

Pen Green Centre for Children and Families



# Phoebe Grace in context

The family live in a privately rented house.

Mum asked Iain and Phoebe Grace to leave the family home when she was 18 months old.

In the family home with Phoebe Grace and Iain's new partner and their baby.

Phoebe Grace's mum lives away with Phoebe Grace's two older siblings.

Phoebe Grace's contact with her mum is sporadic due to mum being inconsistent.

Iain's new partner has had 14 children; 13 have been removed from her care.

Iain tries to hold down a job as a labourer.

Iain has some support from his parents.

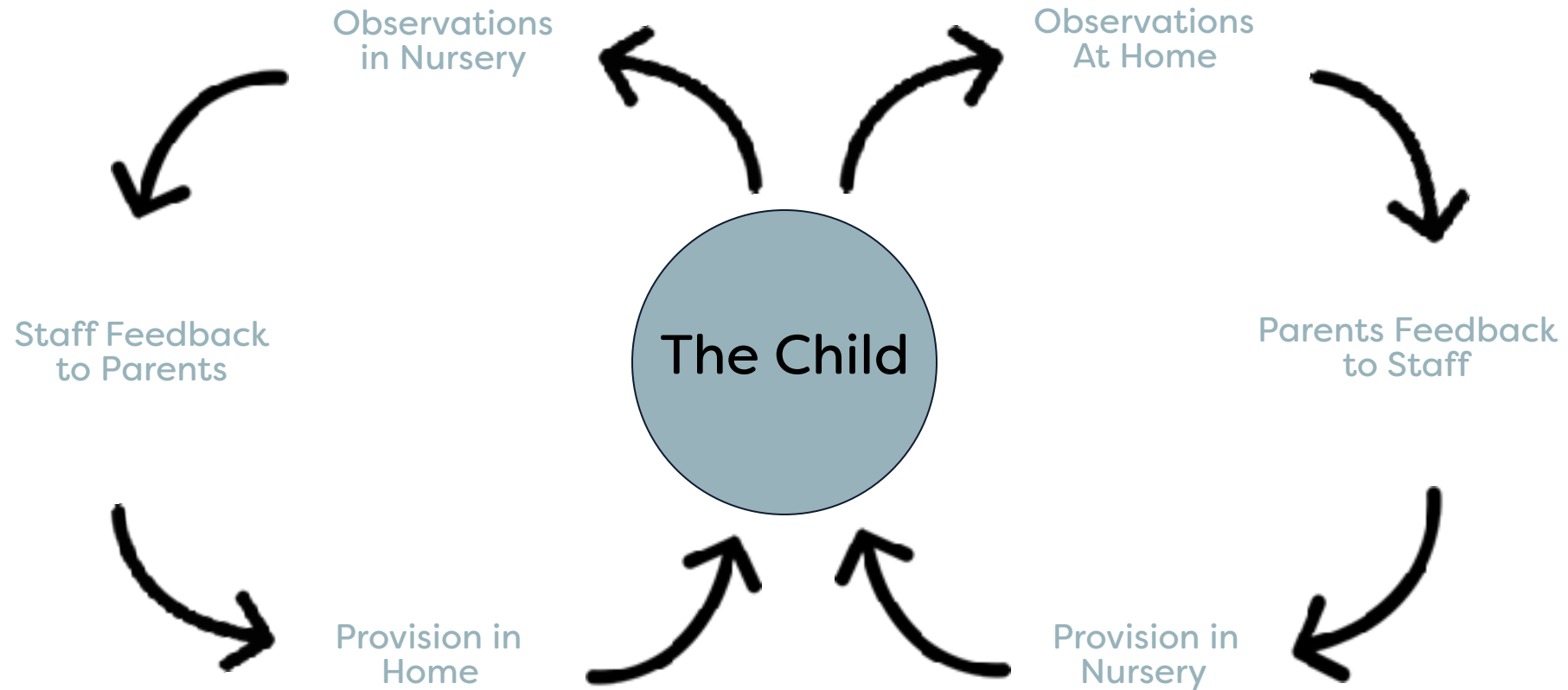


# Phoebe Grace's transition into nursery

- Phoebe Grace was eligible for 2 year old funding and came into nursery
- Phoebe Grace attends our nursery provision every day
- To support the family Phoebe Grace was offered a full time place in nursery
- The Family Worker was aware that Iain was reluctant to come in to the nursery environment
- Family Worker invested time to get to know Iain and Phoebe Grace and to build up their trust
- Over time Iain became more confident to come in to the nursery space with Phoebe Grace
- Being open and honest, sometimes having to have difficult conversations, in a non-judgemental manner.



# The Pen Green Loop



# Phoebe Grace and Iain

- Iain spoke about wanting things to be different for Phoebe Grace, when reflecting on his own childhood and his experience of school
- Family worker shared information with Iain through the on-line journal to allow Iain to get engaged in Phoebe Grace's learning
- Iain shared with his Family Worker that he was unable to read or write
- Family worker immediately changed the way she engaged with Iain
- Sharing images, videos and observation with Iain when he dropped off or picked up Phoebe Grace
- The Family Worker would add comments from Iain to Phoebe Grace's on-line learning journal
- Regular home-visits



Phoebe you have recently been interested in mark making and writing using various materials. After speaking to your daddy I have made you up your very own little bag with lots of paper and pencils and pens and chalk for you to transition to home and nursery to use with daddy and show him your amazing writing.

Phoebe-Grace you love to draw and write and paint. In the garden today you approached the paints at the perspex glass. "Daddy" you said as you dipped your brush into the water and then attempted to draw. "Are you drawing Daddy"? I asked you. You nodded and when you noticed the wet mark and no colour you looked at me puzzled. I showed you how to apply paint to your brush using the palette paints. You copied what I had showed you and smiled when you made a coloured mark on the screen. You then handed me the brush and said "Daddy". I proceeded to draw a face with eyes, nose and mouth. "Mine" you said as you gestured for me to give you the brush back. You then tried very hard to copy my picture.

Dads reply - it's nice to see her drawing and doing stuff like that I don't think to give her pens and paint at home, I thought she would probably just paint my walls but I will now.

# Supporting Phoebe Grace's transition

- Phoebe Grace was part of the Erasmus project
- Supporting and building up Phoebe Grace's emotional resilience
- No school application completed
- Conversation with class teacher
- Visits to school
- Supported place over the summer holiday
- Additional home-visits to help prepare Dad and Phoebe Grace for leaving nursery
- Supporting Iain to make the transition to school

# Supporting Phoebe Grace's transition

- Visits to school
- Conversation with class teacher
- Supporting Iain to make the transition to school



# What worked well

- The Family worker was an advocate for Phoebe Grace and Iain at Child Protection meetings, school transition meetings.
- Regular home-visits were important for both Phoebe Grace and Iain
- The Family worker had to be mindful about all of the pressures that Iain was facing and hold on to he wanted the best for Phoebe Grace and that he would engage in his own time and in his own way.
- Persistence pays off – never assume that parents aren't interested in getting the best for their children – lots of stuff can get in the way.
- Through working together Phoebe Grace's well-being and involvement in nursery increased. She was much more receptive to learning and made some strong friendships with peers.
- Iain has a better understanding of how the effects of their complex life can have an immediate and longer term impact of Phoebe's life chances.
- Iain is now more able to advocate for Phoebe Grace.