



## SARAH'S STORY

**My name's Sarah, I'm 25 and I've been a nursery teacher since I was 16. It was my first job, so it was just something that I clicked with. It's very rewarding seeing all the other children and seeing how they develop, children with additional needs especially.**

**There's challenges every day, you come in to the nursery and you do not know how your day is going to run. It's a very rewarding job.**

**We obviously need to make sure that all children's needs are met, we try to get the parents involved, we get them to come in during the day and be involved in day-to-day activities.**

**I have done Makaton training which I am still training on just now, we have also done a child needs course at Clydebank college and also we do in-house training as well just to keep up with everything and make sure we are all on the same board. We feedback every day to parents, morning and night, we try to keep a close bond as much as possible with the parents so that parents are getting constant feedback.**

**The advice that I would give to a parent for putting their child in to a nursery, the best thing to do is to look about, see what's out there, see the experiences that can be offered to their child and to feel comfortable leaving their child at their nursery.**



## KIRSTY'S STORY

**Kirsty:** When Rufaro was born, and you're hit with "you've got a diagnosis, she's got Down's Syndrome" your life turns about. Then you just get on board and think, right okay let's go with this. My husband and I both decided that we would go mainstream with Rufaro. I had came and I had spoken to Lynn, because Rufaro has got additional needs.

She put my mind at rest and from there on it's history. Rufaro loves coming to nursery, she has her friends, she loves the structure and she loves playing outside. Sarah Jane, I just feel is absolutely amazing, she's been with Rufaro since the day she came in.

**Sarah:** Me and Rufaro have a very close bond since day one meeting her, I've moved through the nursery with her. I was with her when she first started to walk, one day she got up, grabbed the walker started to walk, let go and that was her.

**K:** She's non-verbal, has a few words, but they've been on Makaton.

**S:** I do Makaton through the day with Rufaro, with that her confidence is really really strong.

**K:** We have a close connection as a family with Sarah Jane.

**S:** With mum and dad, they're fantastic, there's loads of feedback from both sides.

**K:** Aw I just think the nursery is amazing, and when I see how Rufaro has come on the doubts that I had? I don't have doubts anymore. I just see the future for Rufaro and I know that she's just going to keep going.

**S:** She makes my job very rewarding.

**K:** I always think children with additional needs, need that little bit more nurturing and to be able to get them into a nursery is fantastic. When I put Rufaro into nursery, I know she's in the right place.



## SHEILA'S STORY

**I'm Sheila and I'm from Tullibody. Well there's myself and my husband Mike, and our two children, Liam who is five and Chloe who is three. When Chloe started nursery, she didn't even look back to say bye, she went in with so much confidence "I'm going to nursery! I'm going to nursery!"**

**I think she must have played with every single toy that day, and coming home she was keen to help me with everything that I did. Help me tidy things away, they actually encourage them to help prepare the snacks, so Chloe really wanted to be part of meal preparation and setting the table, and just copying everything that mummy does, basically!**

**She's been learning a lot of words, they're actually learning Makaton at the moment as well.**

**The nursery's been really good at helping the children with their routines, with their washing hands, putting on their shoes, putting on their jackets. She's really thrived in the nursery environment.**

**We use our Early Learning and Childcare Entitlement, we're excited to hear that this entitlement will now double. So basically, Chloe will experience full days at nursery.**

**It's going to give a lot more opportunity for her to learn new things, to get used to the new school day, but also, it's going to give me new opportunities. I think it's a really positive change, and I can't wait.**

**I feel a lot more comfortable and less anxious about the whole nursery and school experience. I feel so happy that she's happy.**