

January 2010.

We have been privileged to have had Reka join our family this year. Reka is a very charming and beautiful lady and has fitted into our small village in Elford very quickly. She picks up my son from school every evening and he has to compete for the attention she gets from the other children. My son is even more popular this year because the other children want to come home with him to play with Reka and Seth together.

Over the past ten months we have been so pleased to see a loving relationship develop between Reka and both of my sons. They hug and kiss each other and tell each other they love one another. Reka is like a big sister to these two boys and will I am sure remain connected to them for a long time to come.

Reka has also been a welcome addition to my life. We go running together once a week and to the gym twice a week. Reka has never even switched on her television in her room since she joined us. She is part of the family and snuggles down under a big shared blanket on the settee with me at night! We watch lots of girly programmes and my husband I am sure misses getting the lion's share of the television.

Reka even plays Rock Band on the computer with us and we all got addicted to it for a time and play until three in the morning (whilst the children are asleep).

Reka is such an easy person to be around. She is very patient and I have never even heard her raise her voice – not even when I shout to her to see if she wants a cup of tea. She gets up and comes and accepts rather than call back. She is very good natured and happy about life and her enthusiasm and excitement about the future is infectious.

She helps me cook when I get in and takes the edge off my day. She has become a trusted friend, a confidante, good fun to have around and a crutch when we are tired, stressed or just plain flat out with work. She makes our lives so much easier. The way Reka adapts to situations and confidently fits into unfamiliar surroundings amazes me. She plays with the children like a child would do but interacts with the adults like an adult and this is what makes her so popular with everyone whom she comes into contact with.

We are really nervous about the hole that she will leave when she finishes with us and feel concerned for our next Au Pair who will have such a tough act to follow.

We therefore consider that she is more than a worthy candidate for Au Pair of the year.

Williams-Cobley family