

Clare was an au pair to our two children Finlay (15) and Affrica (13) for 7 weeks last summer. From the minute we collected her from the airport I knew she was going to be a real asset to our family.

Our children are very different in temperament and interests and Clare was able to build a great rapport with both. My son and her immediately hit it off as he is more outgoing and mature. By day 2 they were going on dog walks together and speaking French. My daughter is less confident, but Clare quickly saw how to build rapport with her and by the end of her stay with us she had become Affrica's big sister.

Clare arrived with very strong family centred values and lovely manners and these were quickly evident. From day one Clare wanted to do the best job she could and no task was too much trouble. Clare was always asking if there was anything else she could help with and regularly went way beyond what we expected of her. For example as well as cooking delicious fresh meals for the children each day, she prepared supper for my husband and I most nights without even being asked. This was hugely appreciated as we both have hectic jobs and long commutes. She also got Finlay and Affrica involved in the cooking experience and taught them both how to make delicious pancakes. Clare also did all the children's washing and ironing, ensured the children did their designated chores and would look for things around the house that she could do.

My husband and I had total confidence from day 1 of leaving our children in Clare's care and were totally comfortable with Clare driving them to play dates and taking them on outdoor adventures. The children's friends loved coming over to our house as Clare was such fun to be with.

Because of Clare's easy and warm demeanour and strong family centric values our friends remarked regularly to us how lucky we were to have found such a special person. Clare showed a real interest in them and a desire to learn from every experience.

It is clear that Clare will go far in life and will make a real impact on everybody's lives she touches. She became an extended member of our family and we wish her every happiness and good fortune in the future. We would welcome her back with open arms any time and will stay in touch with her.