

On Monday 13th of April in 2009 my life changed dramatically because I left my family in Hungary to come and stay with a new family in England. It was the hardest decision of my whole life, and I knew it would be a challenge but now I have another view of life. I now feel more confident and I realise I can make new friends anytime and enjoy meeting new people from different countries of the world.

The beginning:

I will never forget the first night at my new home. I arrived on a Monday night and the first thing I did was try to make myself understood with my host parents, but it wasn't too easy because my English was extremely bad. The second day I met with the two gorgeous boys who like me were very excited and the adventure began from this day. I felt that Melanie (my host mother), Steve (my host father), Seth (the older marvellous boy), and Euan (the younger sweetie boy) gave me a fantastic chance to be a new family member.

My new location:

I live in Elford and I think this is one of the most wonderful and friendly little villages in the whole world. When the residents found out they had a new neighbour, everybody tried to help me to settle in. The children from the school and their parents always asked me how I was feeling and the pupils always ask after school to go to the playground.

My weekdays:

In the mornings my plan is always to get up before the boys and eat some breakfast together and play with them before they go to the nursery and school. After this I do some light housework or I go to the language school which helped me a lot. It has not only improved my English, but also I have made some fantastic friends and I know we will be eternal friends. My afternoons are never boring, because I am with the boys and we have lots of fun together. We play football, bounce on the trampoline, swing, slide, "battle for the castle", swim, run races, memory card, scrabble, jigsaw, twister, cooking, playing with the blocks or lego, play on the piano, paint, colour, plasticine model, and play with the video games. I really enjoy it when we read bedtime stories and after we discuss what happened in the story or I must read by popular request the funny part of the book again. Once, when I didn't understand the words I just asked them to please show me on the pictures and they always enjoyed it as if I was their teacher. After my host parents come home we always talk to each other about what happened that day and we drink a cup of tea (and now I drink lots of tea!). Sometimes Mel and I will go to the gym or run together and we are now running 8 miles once a week, that is very good as we can talk about girl things! Other times when the children are in bed, we make our dinner together (Mel is vegetarian so I have learnt lots of interesting recipes) and after that we watch our favourite series or movies and the battle begins for the controller!!

My weekends:

In my invitation letter it contained information about what I would like to do at weekends and I was told I would be able to join in family activities and have some fun together. So I spent a lot of weekends with my family and we never have a boring weekend with the two very active children. Sometimes we play outside with them, because after that we hope they will be tired after but this plan never works, so we play the whole day with them!!! However we don't mind and we enjoy teaching them some new things and playing with their favourite games. The weekends are special days because we all eat together and these are really funny occasions, where the boys make a circus of themselves and we try to stay serious, but it's impossible. The evenings are always funny as well, because my host parents and I play with the

rock band, which is absolutely joyful fun for us and I learnt to play with the fake guitar (Steve is the bass guitarist and Mel the singer). We are now on the tour around the world with our band.....which we named "Humus" because when I came and Mel offered me some Houmus I thought she was offering me some sand to eat (as Humus is Hungarian for sand).

Holiday with my host family:

In July my host family asked me if I would like to come with them on holiday and I was very glad about that, as I never thought we have a holiday together. This two weeks was for me unforgettable and I will remember it my whole life. Besides we were always together and sometimes the people asked me what is the relationship in our midst, and at this part of my experience I felt my English developed quickly. I liked to notice how the boys enjoyed their summer holidays and the boys felt that I am like their big sister. In the restaurants while we waited for our food I played with them a lot and the waitresses laughed at us and they thought I was the sister of the boys. In the mornings when they woke up early sometimes I heard in my room they asked: "Mummy where is my playmate?" On the seaside they taught me how I could build the perfect sandcastle, because before I hadn't had a teacher on this subject.

Special days:

These days are not usual days they are days like birthdays, anniversaries, visiting the relatives or camping. Before these days we counted the days down and told the boys how many nights left until the occasion. Seth and Euan are always very excited if we go somewhere especially if there are children there. My first occasion was when we visited the boys' cousins and there were about ten children and everybody had great fun. Before I worried a little about what the people would think about who I was, but after the first five minutes I felt comfortable, because the guests were very friendly and treated me like I was a member of the Williams-Cobley family. The last September was my first birthday without my family but my host family completely compensated for their absence and my whole day was dazzling. I got handmade things that the boys made me, they wrote on the box "I love you forever" and I felt this relationship will be forever. When my host parents' had their 10th anniversary last September they asked me if I could manage the boys for three days and I felt like a hen with two little chickens. I tried to cook them some food and I was delighted because they ate it and we not just played together in those days we slept together in one bed, sharing the blanket .

In the end:

I am very grateful to my host family as they helped me a lot, took me into their family and made me feel like a family member. We are very close friends and I know I can always depend on them. Thank you so much for Mel, Steve, Seth and Euan! I would never have thought in my life that this experience as an aupair is the most amazing experience in my life. I also would like to say a big thank you for my hungarian agency the Au Pair Hungary Kft and for the english agency The Childcare Company, because they helped me find the best family for me and helped find my way to the happiness.

Rekha