

## Nomination for Au Pair of the Year - Jasmin Irrgang

From the application process, Jasmin was our stand out selection. Her CV was expertly written, expressing a personality that would be a great match for our family. She arrived only a few weeks following our own move to a new house, school, nursery, jobs and country, so we were all still getting settled ourselves. Jasmin must have been so nervous, at just turned 18, never having been on a flight before, let alone by herself, and leaving her own very close family, she had many reasons to feel trepidation. Yet, straight away we all knew she would be fantastic for our family, with a big smile and immediate connection with our daughter.

Jasmin's preparation for the role was excellent, really going that extra mile to ensure she could give her best. From enhancing her existing first aid qualification with an infant and child first aid course to presenting the children with an amazing hand-made book full of activity ideas for their time together.

When my husband and I were considering inviting an au pair into our home, we were always very clear that we didn't want another mother for our children. We wanted someone to be a 'big sister'. It was also extremely important to have someone who liked outdoor life; walking, playing in the park, sports and keeping active. Jasmin fits this bill entirely. Almost whatever the weather, she takes our daughter to the park after school to spend time outdoors and enjoying nature. They have a great bond, able to 'coerce' our daughter to do her homework (which should never be underestimated!), introducing Cicilly to new music, singing, dancing, tinkering, baking and sharing her knowledge of her world with our daughter which broadens her horizons too. Cicilly wanted me to add that on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jasmin brings her a cookie as a treat after school!

Jasmin's personal qualities are a huge credit to her family. I have never heard Jasmin complain, she is confident, intelligent, patient, enthusiastic, cheerful, driven and puts up with my cooking! She is also lots of fun, always ready to play games and role play, often as a 'baddie' in our 3 year old sons 'batman' games! She really embraces what it is to be an au pair. Straight away, she was looking to improve her already excellent level of English language. After completing and passing one course, she has signed up for the next at the local college. Always pushing herself, she also has started learning Spanish. Jasmin has made good strong friendships with other au pairs and gets out every weekend exploring the new country she has come to live in. Her confidence in the kitchen has grown since she has been with our family, and hopefully this will continue to develop. The children are very happy with the meals she cooks for them, again this is not something that should be underestimated!

When the time comes for Jasmin to leave our family, there will certainly be a big hole. The big sister role has been outstanding. I hope her time with our family has allowed her to establish herself as a strong, independent young woman who will, for sure, make a success of her future.



Jasmin and Cicilly enjoying the park

From the Dixon Family, Northern Ireland