

'This is Oliver' (video transcript): February 15th 2019

Website: www.autismtransitions.org

Video URL: <https://youtu.be/UcJclbsFlj8>

Lindsey (Oliver's mother): *'Well, he's just started doing lots of painting at the moment which he has never, ever done before, it's taken like a year to get him to paint and he's actually bringing them home, so I'm like 'wooh'. He's like amazing. He must be settling a bit better now, it's taken a year but...'*

Lindsey watching video footage of Oliver: (Asking Oliver's little sister) *'Who's that? Oliver's sister answers: 'Oliver'. 'What is he doing?... At least they are not swords, that's an improvement!'*

Researcher: *'He is quite social though...'*

Lindsey: *'Yeah, this is slowly getting a lot better, at home he's not like that at all. Here he is like a completely different child, at home he literally separates himself from her. If we go to my brother's house or with my cousins, who you would think he would interact with cos he knows them quite well and we're always around them, he literally takes himself to the side and they try and play with him and he like just gets up and walks off.'*

Kathryn (Aviary Nursery Manager): *'Oliver has such intent to communicate and intent to be social and loves his friends and likes watching them and joining in and copying them and, you know, he chats to you, you can understand some of it but not all of it. Really, really, really social little boy. So, with Oliver what's been really nice is that he's got this imagination and he's quite creative, so to be able to do his...sometimes he comes in dressed as somebody else, sometimes he'll use our dressing-up and do something else and he's been able to do that inside, outside, up in Forest school, you know he's just done it wherever he is but with other children. So, he's really got that relationship with the other children in the setting. I don't know what the relationship is...whether he's chosen them because they do something similar to what he likes...I think that's kind of where the relationship with him has come in.'*

Gareth (Aviary Nursery Inclusion Teacher): *'Oliver, he likes to do anything with people and he likes... (the researcher: 'he's very social') he is, he's very social. But I think what that is all about is...so Oliver, I wonder whether with Oliver, if you can actually get inside his head, I wonder what all this jargon and babbling that he comes out with whether that really means stuff or whether there is just an approximation of words or...cos he seems to be doing 'dddddddddd' he seems to be either retelling something that he's seen, or telling others about a particular narrative, or he's making up some sort of plot, that's what it appears like. But we've got no way of knowing whether that's what it is or not, so it's either very sophisticated play that he just can't get out or it's very low level and all he is really doing is running alongside other children. And at different points in the year I've gone one way or the other with Oliver, it's very...you know, I don't know. Cos we say he really likes to be with other children and he does but he would be on his own quite a lot.'*

Sarah (Early Years Practitioner at Aviary Nursery): *'Oliver, he loves the social scene, he loves to be in with the big boys, you know, doing the superhero play, you know, that's his big thing isn't it?'*

Gary (Early Years Practitioner at Aviary Nursery): *'Oliver, I think Oliver's come on leaps and bounds. When he first came it was just literally superheroes, powwow, running back and forth but now he'll take himself and do some building, other children will join in with him and he'll build with them. Another little girl who's sort of like, he's taken a shine to, they'll play game together or playdoh. So, his sort of play had expanded and he's mixing with others, like he likes to play in big groups, running, chasing, but he also likes to play on his own or with just one or two and something quiet, something calming. He's desperately trying to tell you what he wants but he can't and he knows what he's saying but of course no one else does, but he doesn't get frustrated about it, he keeps going and the in the end when he thinks I'm not getting what I want, he'll just go off and do his own thing.'*