

## **Jennie and family: Living with uncertainty**

*[Redbridge, Outer London]*

**Jennie:** I am a single mother with three sons. Jordan 16, Mark who's 13 and Michael who is 11. They all have disabilities. My sons Mark and Michael are both visually impaired.

**Michael:** So basically if he throws it from there. Now go there Mark. I can't catch it, throw it from there. I have to be facing him to catch the ball. I can't catch the ball.

**Mark:** He can't catch it properly.

**Michael:** Because my eye sight is bad, I can only see ninety degrees, basically right in front of me.

**Mark:** Like Michael, yeah, if I am standing like this I can't see, I can only see like that. If I am standing like this.

**Jennie:** My eldest son Jordan's got ADHD.

**Jordan:** ADHD tablets, these ones. They keep me calm and everything when I take them. I want to be like other kids who don't have ADHD, that don't have to take tablets for a lifetime. I change, change from being a nightmare to an angel.

*[The family has been living in temporary accommodation for 11 years. They are under constant threat of eviction.]*

**Jennie:** I've actually been waiting for a long time to be rehoused permanently. I could be moved tomorrow to another place if the landlord or whoever owns this property wants it back.

**Michael:** I don't mind moving but it's getting a bit annoying because I want to have a permanent house so then we won't be able to move again.

**Jordan:** My mum is worried because she doesn't know when she's going to move out of this house. She's really worried about moving. We need to do all the clothes, put them in bags and everything. Start all over again.

**Jennie:** I had to leave my children's dad because of domestic violence. I was working before that but once I left him I could not go to work because my children needed me.

*[The family live on £243 a week.]*

**Jennie:** I have onions, sauces, vinegar, one pack of ham. I've got nothing really which I can do for them, like eggs or anything. I haven't got any of them at the moment. My neighbour from upstairs gave me the ham today. That's about it, I think.

Two of my children have to share a bed, which is the two youngest boys, which is Mark and Michael. I used to think, well I still do at times, why has it happened to me to go to a refuge? Being in temporary accomodation, it's hurtful. I don't like it, but I have to stay strong for myself and for my children, and I hate being in the situation that I'm in now.

I'm still proud of what I have achieved because I have three beautiful children who I love and adore and they adore me.

**Jennie:** Goodnight.

**Michael and Mark:** Goodnight.

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