

Going to a children's hearing ...



This booklet has been produced by the Scottish Children's Reporter Administration and is for young children going to a children's hearing for the first time. Every hearing is different, but this booklet tells the story of Chloe and Billy.

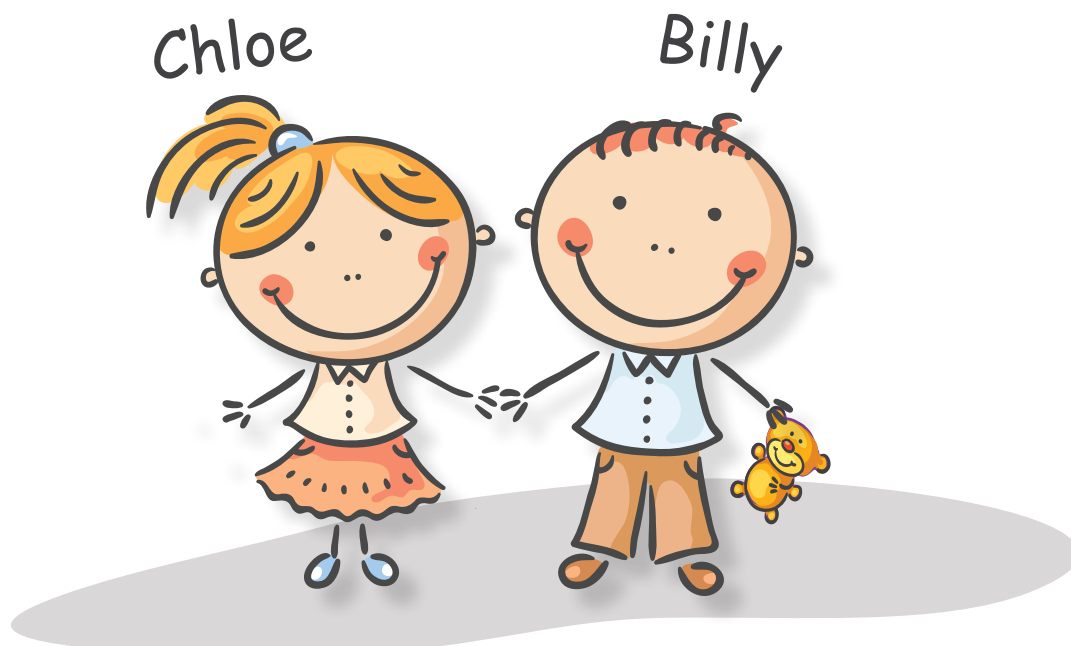
Chloe and Billy's story ...

My name is Chloe. I am six years old.

I live with my mum and my brother, Billy who is four.

I like playing with my friends, but I also like going to school. I like it when the teacher reads us stories and we get to colour in.

Billy likes to play with his toys. He likes playing football in the garden and playing on his scooter, but he loves his teddy and takes it with him everywhere.





My mum has been poorly and has to stay in bed for most of the day. She needs to rest, so I have to look after my brother Billy. He's only little and needs my help. I have to help him get dressed. I make him toast and give him milk, then I wash everything up to keep the kitchen nice and clean.

I haven't been going to school much. I'm really sad about this as I like going to school. I really like my teacher and I have lots of friends there. We have to practice our numbers and letters at school, but I don't mind doing this. I would rather be at school than washing up.



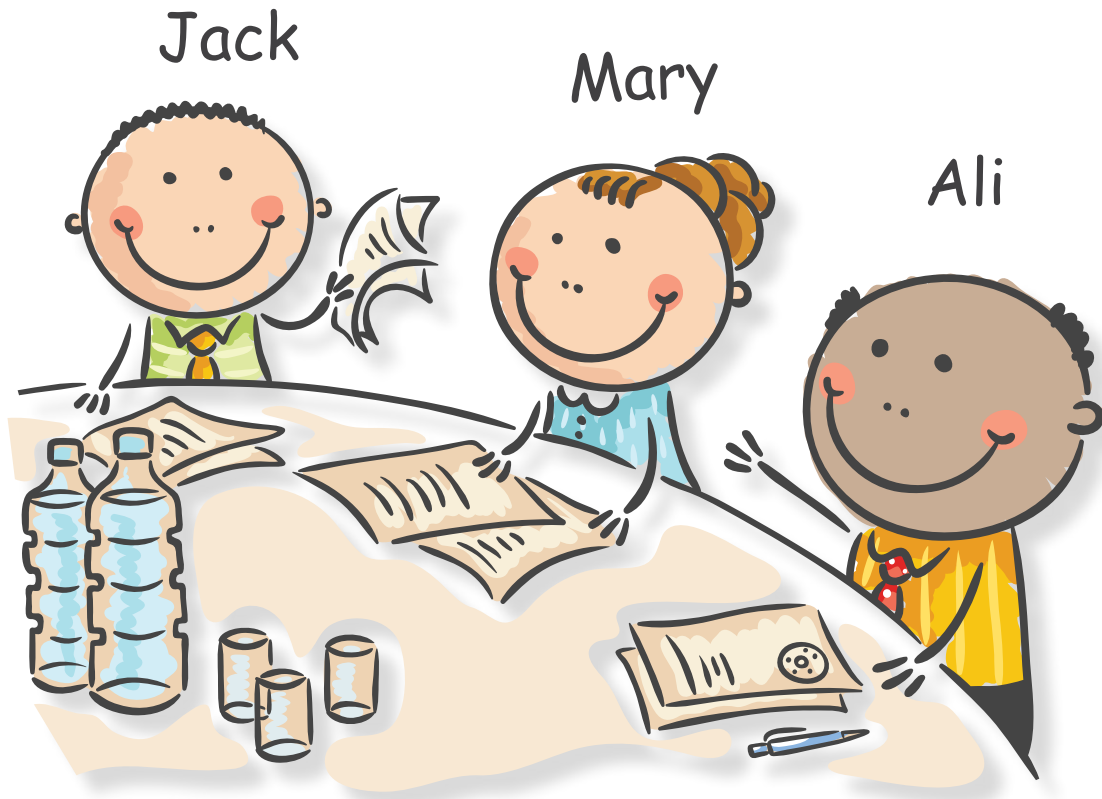
My teacher was worried about me because I am missing school. She told Gillian who is a children's reporter. Gillian sent me a letter and asked me to go to a children's hearing. I was a bit worried and told my granny. She said everything would be ok. She said not to be scared about going to the children's hearing because the people at the hearing would help me.

The people in the hearing ...



My name is Gillian and I am a children's reporter. I will be in the hearing to make sure everything is fair. Every hearing has a reporter like me.

My name is Tom. I am a social worker. I go along to children's hearings to support children and make sure they get the help they need. Every hearing has a social worker like me.



My name is Jack. I am the panel chair. Normally I am a bus driver, and in my spare time I volunteer as a panel member to help children who are having problems in their lives. We have lots of special training before we can become a panel chair. I am joined on the panel today by Mary and Ali who are also panel members like me. We are here to help Chloe and Billy.

A few days before the children's hearing Tom came to visit us at our house. He is our social worker. He told us what would happen at the hearing. Billy didn't really understand, he just wanted to show Tom his teddy.

Tom told me who would be there and said that they would ask me some questions. He said I would get the chance to tell the people how I was feeling. Tom helped me fill out a form called All About Me. This had drawings on it like happy and sad faces.



Me and Billy went to the hearing with my granny. My mum was feeling sick and couldn't come. We had to wait for a while in a room. This was called the waiting room. There was a box there with some toys so we played for a little while.



Gillian the children's reporter came into the waiting room to see us. She said hello and asked if we were ok. She then took us into a room which had a big table and some chairs. This was the hearing room.

A man called Jack was sitting on the other side of the table in the middle and he said he was the panel chair. There was also a lady called Mary and another man called Ali. They were panel members.

They were very nice and said the hearing was all about me and Billy. They said they wanted to make things better for us.



Gillian, the reporter came into the hearing room with us. Our social worker Tom came in too. He sat beside us round the big table.

I was a bit shy when we went into the hearing room, but granny was holding my hand. She said everyone was there to make things better for me and Billy.

She said I should tell the people why I hadn't been going to school. I wish mum had been there, but she was too sick. I am really glad granny was there with us.



Granny told the hearing that we could go and stay with her for a while. Everyone asked us if we would like this and we said yes, we love staying at granny's house and playing in her big garden which has lots of flowers.

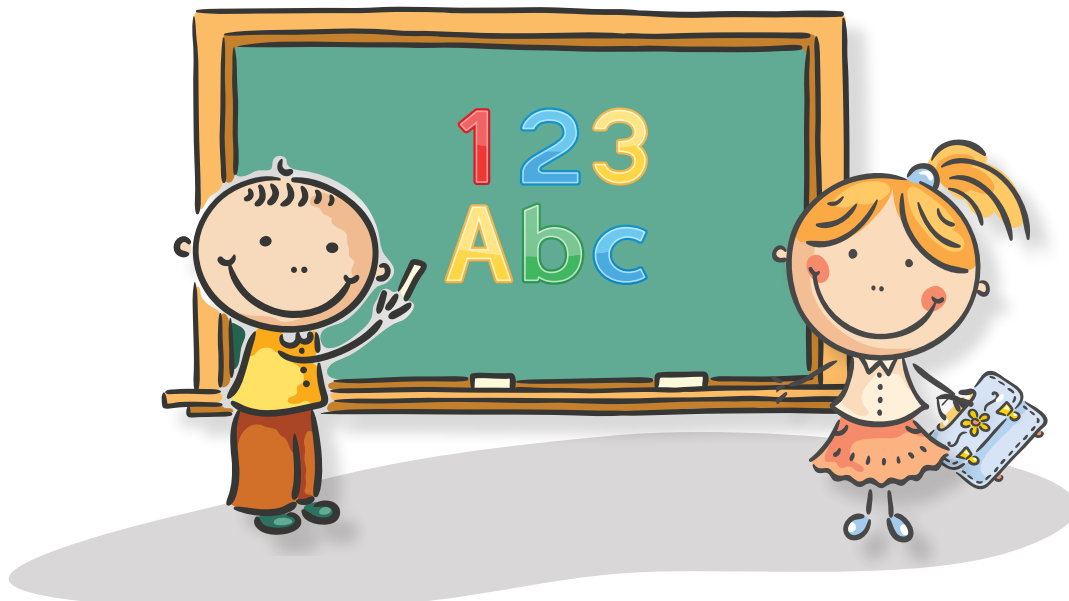
The hearing decided that we should stay there for a while until our mum gets better. We really like staying at granny's house. I play in the garden and Billy plays on his scooter.



Since the hearing, I am going to school every day and I am really happy about this. I sit beside my best friend Andy. We have lots of fun together. We like it when we learn new letters and numbers.

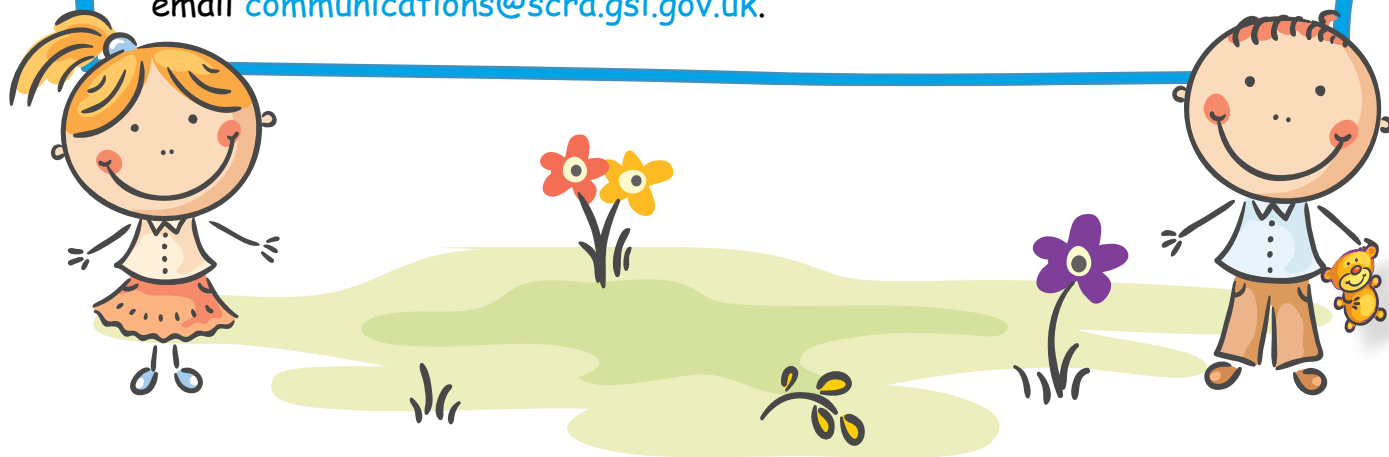
I am sad we are not staying at mum's just now. We go to visit her at the weekend. When she is better, the people at the hearing will ask to see us again. I hope after that we will go back home to mum's.

I am glad we went to the children's hearing. Everyone was there to help us and make things better for me and Billy.



If you want more information about the children's hearings system, please visit www.scra.gov.uk. There is a section for children, as well as a section for parents and carers.

If you have any questions about an individual child's case, please contact your local children's reporter or for general enquiries, please email communications@scra.gsi.gov.uk.



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