

Loved but sad

A child's story written by a residential worker who knew the child and listened to her story.

All names have been changed to protect the identity of the family



I'm sad; nobody knows I'm sad.

I'm six and my little sister is four and we are both sad. We're not sad all the time – we go to Gran and Papa's where we are never sad, until we leave them and then we are sad again. Mum and Dad love us we know but they never have time. I long for time! Time when we are not getting rows and told to tidy our room, no treats 'til we do. What I don't understand is our room looks like the rest of our house. I'm really confused. Dad says I have to eat cornflakes for breakfast but I don't like them. Please! Please! Can I have Cheerios! Mum and Dad work all the time. Why can't I have Cheerios! Gran and Papa both work but they have time, we curl up on the couch and watch a film and get cuddled for a whole hour. It is bliss. Oh how I love my Gran and Papa.

Dad works, works hard – how can I not have Cheerios?

We are always getting rows for misbehaving but we are confused. When's bedtime? Don't know! When's dinnertime? Don't know?

I'm in shock. Gran and Papa are going a holiday for seven nights and eight days. Why can't they just go for three nights and four days? Oh how I will miss them, it will be a long, long time they are away. Mummy and Daddy will be angry all the time because they will have nowhere to give us away to. Oh how we will miss Gran and Papa. Mum and Dad do love us they just work all the time. Gran is

ill and needs to go to hospital. My little sister asked her if she was going to die. Gran! She can't die because you go to heaven if you die and you don't see then again. Maybe Dad or Mum could go to heaven for Gran because they work all the time anyway. Gran says Mum and Dad work hard for us but I think it just makes them angry. But I do know they love us.

Oh, no we are in trouble again – Dad told us not to touch the cake but it was there in front of us – it looked so good. Now we have to stay in bed and we are not allowed to see Gran for a whole two weeks. I'm so sad. She is the baddest girl ever.

When they go to work they will have to put us somewhere. Please, please it is bound to be Grans. It is so boring being in bed. I phoned to see if she would come and see me. She suggested I try tidy my room to make Dad not cross anymore but there is nowhere to put anything. It is so difficult. I need my Gran to help.

What would I do without my Gran and Papa?



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DDP Network is a worldwide body that promotes DDP and supports professionals, parents and carers in finding out about the therapy and the parenting approach. We provide information about the therapy, how to become accredited in DDP, the parenting approach, resources, training courses and conferences.

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