

## **My Experience with VALUES**

After looking up various websites for organisations for people with learning difficulties I came across Values. I contacted them by telephone & also sent an email with my details, I was then contacted by Aaron Keen (Team Leader) who then informed me that my daughter Chanee would need a Social Worker referral, and he then provided me with some contact details.

I went down to Social Services to register Chanee; we then waited for her to be allocated a Social Worker. The Social worker came to our home & filled out various forms, & any financial help needed.

The Social Worker & Aaron came round to see Chanee & me at our home & informed us about the various activities & support that she would receive.

We then visited the Values office, where we discussed a timetable of activities & costs.

Since Chanee has been volunteering at Values she has become more positive & her confidence has grown immensely she has learnt new skills from this she now has her first paid job, she is now employed by Voluntary Action Leicester as a Kitchen Cleaner, which has made her feel independent & a lot more confident having her own earned money it also gives her a sense of responsibility & being part of a team (a member of staff), she has also made new friends & she says that she is having fun, which if Chanee is happy then that makes me happy.

I strongly believe that without the help & support of Values Chanee would not have achieved where she is now.

I feel a lot more relieved, I now don't have to worry about Chanee during the day time with nothing to do all day, I feel confident that she is in a safe environment, & if I have any queries or any concerns I know that I can contact the office & they are willing & able to assist me, or if I leave a message then my call is returned, it's like a worry has been lifted off my shoulders.

I am not saying that it was all plain sailing getting Chanee involved with Values; it did take a few chasing up phone calls there where a few times when I did feel dishearten, but over all the whole process was arranged when it was convenient & in a comfortable manner, and I am so glad that I persisted with it.

Over all I can only find positive things to say about Values & I would recommend & encourage anyone with learning disability to become involved, as it would be good support.

This has defiantly been the best thing for us both.

Cezett McIntosh (Mother of Chanee McIntosh)