

Case Study: The Johnson family

Please review the following case study for the Johnson family and compile a short analysis of the information, raising any hypothesis that should be considered when assessing the family circumstances. This should not exceed 500 words.

Family Composition

- Mother: Sarah, 32 years old
- Father: Daniel, 35 years old
- Ella, 9 years old
- Jayden, 4 years old

Background information:

Children's Services received a referral from Ella's school after staff noted that Ella had attended school on multiple occasions appearing hungry, tired, and wearing unwashed clothes. She disclosed to her teacher that she "tries to help look after Jayden because Mummy sleeps a lot."

A week later, police attended the family home following reports of a disturbance. Sarah was found intoxicated and unresponsive on the sofa. Jayden was wandering the street unsupervised. Daniel was not present. Ella was not in the home and her whereabouts were unknown. Ella was later seen by professionals and was fit and well, although presented as distressed and would not speak to officers.

The family were supported at Child in Need level before being closed to the Local Authority due to non-engagement after twelve months. The family was re-opened to the Local Authority two months later when a neighbour called the police for a second time because they were concerned about the children. When police attended, home conditions were poor and Sarah presented as under the influence and had bruising on her arms. Sarah and Daniel did not engage with Child Protection planning when this was implemented, and Daniel was unhappy that his historic caution for domestic abuse was being discussed. Legal advice was sought and the matter was brought to court, with Interim Care Orders being granted for Ella and Jayden, who have been placed in Local Authority Foster Care.

Since being in foster care, Ella has been known to frequently soil in her sleep, suffer with anxiety and try to consistently meet Jayden's care needs herself. Jayden has been assessed as being behind in meeting developmental milestones. Sarah has told the social worker that she feels judged and she desperately wants her children to be returned to her care. Daniel does not agree with the concerns being raised and says they are being exaggerated but says he will work with the social workers.