

Box 12.12. Transcript of a qualitative interview

Interview with Joanna (separated) about Jared, aged 18 months, who has been going to a child care day centre for three months.

1 Q: How did you feel during the first week or so that Jared was in day care?

3 Joanna: Ah I worried. I worried a lot because he was very young then about
4 three or four months old. Um but then I used to go and visit him say
5 after two because I had a break and I'd go and visit him in between and
6 he wasn't even interested in ... I stopped doing it because I'd go in
7 and after I'd been there an hour and a half two hours to play with him
8 and he was busily involved in something else and um wasn't grizzly
9 enough to want me.

10 Q: You said you were rather worried. What were you worried
11 about?

12 Joanna: Um I was worried that it was going to affect him not
13 being with me – that he wouldn't get the same love and attention – that
14 he'd cry and miss me and but now I think it's ah I worry more about me
15 missing him than him missing me.

16 Q: How long has Jared been in day care now?

17 Joanna: Since he was three months. So about a year and a bit.
18 He virtually been going there really since he was about two months. I
19 have found though that when we shifted from the country up here he didn't
20 go for about eight weeks and he was ... used to cry all the time for the
21 first week or two um then I started to take him back to going into
22 creche.

23 Q: You found it difficult leaving him after?

24 Joanna: Yes I found it difficult I don't know if it was a stage he was
25 going through. That clingy stage or whether he just got so used to being
26 with me he didn't want to ...

27 Q: Was that hard for you?

28 Joanna: Yes terribly hard. I don't know if I could leave him if he was
29 the type that cried all the time that I left him because I just ... it
30 makes me feel sick. I worry about him being away from me the whole
31 time that he is away ... so I'm really glad that he's happy and laughing
32 when he walks in.

33 Q: Have your emotions changed since the first weeks Jared was in day
34 care. If so – how?

35 Joanna: Well I think I've got a really positive outlook for it now I really
36 feel that it's a really good thing for him to be going to day care as an
37 only child – he doesn't have any brothers and sisters to mix with – it
38 teaches him sharing and not being the centre of attention. Um and how
39 to get on with other children and I think it's really important. And I
40 think maybe an only child doesn't learn that early enough if they
41 don't go to something where they are mixing with other children so I

42 think really even if I didn't have to he would go at least a couple
43 of times a week into a local child care centre.

44 Q: And if you were perfectly free to choose, how would you have arranged
45 your life since the birth of Jared?

46 Joanna: I'd have a nanny ... If I was really going to choose anything I'd
47 have a nanny/housekeeper. [Jared appeared with something that he
48 shouldn't have had – mother quickly removed it – Jared started to cry.]
49 I find he get very bored if he's at home with me I usually by ten o'clock
50 have got to go down the street because he get so restless.

51 Q: How about in the future if you were perfectly free to choose?

52 Joanna: I'd still have him go into a creche maybe not quite as much as he
53 does at the moment um and I think I would prefer to have more help at a
54 night time.

55 Q: So you'd still like a nanny?

56 Joanna: A nanny/housekeeper. I mean I wouldn't like her to be bringing him
57 up. But I suppose um somebody who could replace because my parents
58 aren't up here. Somebody who would replace his grandmother I suppose.
59 Somebody ah who I could just ... more of a grandmother figure I suppose.
60 Um just somebody who could help out occasionally a bit ... It's very hard
61 when you've got no ... I've got girlfriends up here but none of them
62 have got children so it's very hard to ... yeah some are having children at
63 the moment so it'll be different once they have them. But I wouldn't
64 leave him with someone who didn't have children because it might put
65 them off.

66 Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?

67 Joanna: Well I actually feel that it doesn't hurt any child going to
68 child care I think it does depend on the child care centre um and I've
69 been really lucky with both centres he's been to they've been really
70 good. Really good in the way that they're brand new. So they have
71 been very clean bright and new facilities bright windows a good
72 playground which is really important. And the staff have all
73 been new so they're all really enthusiastic um and they really like
74 what they're doing and um I've found also that the children that go to
75 them have been really nice types, and that makes a difference. And um
76 I'm not being classist or anything but I'm not sure if I was living in
77 a housing commission area and going to creche there in those areas I
78 would find a difference. But both times he's been in really nice where
79 the parents are nice types and ah it does affect even on really young
80 children you can tell about the parents. In both the creches he's
81 been in there have been no children swearing being naughty they've been
82 taught discipline and I think that's good and actually the creche is good
83 it teaches them a little more discipline than I do in a way.
84 Sitting when he's eating and things like that where as a sole parent I
85 can get a little bit soft on him so it's good that he does have a little
86 stern-ness.

(Source: Lyn Richards)