

Engaging with Parents and Children in the First Thousand Days

Haley's story

Haley is 19 years old and is 12 weeks pregnant. She is living with her mother, who is constantly fighting with her partner, Frank.

Much of Haley's time is taken up with the care of her two younger brothers and she argues with her mum about neglecting them. She worries a lot about her brothers and knows that Frank cannot be trusted.

Haley's boyfriend, Lewis, is selling drugs and there have been lots of new people coming to the house. All of this is worrying Haley, who is already anxious about the kind of home she can provide for her new baby.

Haley has a history of depression and self-harm. She is afraid of getting help from professionals because she has had some bad experiences.

Her mother has warned her all her life that professionals don't really want to help, and will only use the information she tells them against her.

Haley is also worried about what professionals will think about the scars on her arms; she assumes that they will assess her as an unfit mother.

She has started arguing with Lewis about money. He says he will stop dealing when the baby comes, but Haley knows he will do whatever is easiest. She loves Lewis, but knows he is not ready to be a responsible father.

Haley has been feeling increasingly hopeless and she just wants to shut off from the world and hide from her troubles.

While she wants to be a better mother than her own, and to give her child the kind of life that everyone deserves, she doubts she has what it takes to do it.

[Click this link](https://vimeo.com/286824997/0976460cb9) to watch a short three minute video where Haley describes how she is feeling.

If the link doesn't open copy and paste the following into your internet browser: <https://vimeo.com/286824997/0976460cb9>