

Engaging parents of school-aged children

Charlie's story

Charlie is a nine year-old boy who lives with his mother Kate and father Chris. Chris is a real estate agent and Kate works part-time in administration. Chris loved playing football when he was younger and is president of the local football club. He is busy with lots of out of hours appointments for his work and with the football club. He wants to share his passion for footy with Charlie, but Charlie doesn't seem so keen. Chris exerts a strong influence over the family in terms of the financial and social decisions which can leave Charlie and Kate feeling like they don't have much of a say.

Chris is easily frustrated by Charlie when he doesn't meet his expectations around school or football and he often argues with Kate when Charlie has gone to bed. Kate sometimes feels intimidated during these arguments but finds it hard to speak to friends about it because Chris is so well-regarded in their social circle. Kate does not share Chris' interest in football but as the Club President's wife, she is required to regularly attend football functions.

Kate is becoming worried about Charlie as she has noticed he has changed over the past months. He doesn't seem himself, spending more time in his room or in the shed with Rex's old things. Rex was the family dog who died of old age about three months ago.

Kate has noticed Charlie has wet the bed on occasions over the past few months, something he has not done for years.

Kate has not talked with Charlie about this, as he hides his wet pyjamas under his bed.

At school Charlie has typically been an average student however increasingly Charlie's teachers have noticed he is not doing as well with his work and he has also presented with some challenging behaviours.

Kate has met with the school upon their request; however no clear explanation for the changes in Charlie's behaviour were identified.

[Follow this link](#) to watch a short three minute video of Charlie's story.

Issue with the link? Copy and paste the following into your internet browser:

<https://vimeo.com/290812738/ed90d4c6b8>