



Nellie's story

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Hi, my name is Nellie, and I have been a foster carer for nearly ■ years.

Some of the issues that I want to raise, are things that have happened to myself and the children in my care.

Particularly the two children that I have had most recently, Child A and Child B.

Child A was placed with me as a newborn straight from hospital and their sibling Child B was placed with me at ■ year old.

When Child A was 3 years old and Child B was ■ years old, Child Safety decided that Child B and Child A needed to go and live with their other sibling.

I was given about one weeks notice that the children would be leaving my care and going to the baby brother's carer. I advocated strongly that a transition needed to happen and even sent a proposal of a transition to Child Safety. I was told that there was going to be no transition and that the children would be moved as planned.

So with no transition and after living with me for ■ years, these two children were taken from my home and placed with complete strangers. With no planned contact with myself after they left. No phone calls or visits.

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This placement broke down after 6 weeks, as the children were not coping with the move and were showing challenging behaviours. Both children were then returned to myself, very traumatised and troubled.

It took me a good six months to help them settle back down and for their behaviours to become more manageable.

Then only one year after returning to my home, the children's Grandparent decided to ask that Child B come and live with them, but not Child A. This would involve moving to a new school and having to make new friends.

Child B's first year at prep was very difficult, where he had over 70 one school reports for unacceptable behaviours of hitting, throwing furniture, refusing to do school work, swearing at teachers. So moving to a new school comes with worries about their behaviours.

The paediatrician that he saw at the end of last year said that any big changes in Child B's life should have the help of an Occupational Therapist and Play Therapist who could work with them to prepare them for these changes in their life. But of course Child Safety pushed for Child B to go to their Grandparents over the holidays without having the therapists on board for support.

A big move, starting a new school and being separated from their and leaving me their long-term carer of █ years.

Again, I advocated for the two children to remain together, as separating them seemed cruel, as they are close siblings who have been through everything together and should always have each other to rely on. And again, I was told that Child Safety would be supporting Child B to move to their grandparents.

These two children have been through so much in these last two years and now they have to get used to being without each other. It just seems like Child Safety wants to traumatise the children even more, without really taking into consideration the attachment of the 2 siblings.

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This has been heartbreaking for me to watch and the common person on the street has more sense than this system that seems to only be concerned with moving children to kin regardless of the situation.

