Being a Mummy and Daddy can be very hard work, there are lots of things mummy’s and daddies’ need to do to look after their children and keep them safe.

They need to make sure you have enough food.

They need to make sure you have clean clothes.

They need to make sure you go to school and help you with your homework.

They need to make sure you see the doctor, dentist, speech therapist, or the eye doctor

They need to make sure ........

You feel safe,
You feel happy

Being a parent is a big job, and not everyone is good at it. Your mum and dad found it very tough, and they didn’t always do a good job. Sometimes your mum and dad did not take you to school.

Sometimes you were very hungry because mum and dad had not bought any food.

We are not sure why it was so tough for your mum and dad to look after you properly. It might be because they were very young when you were born, and maybe it was because they were not getting along very well.

It was very scary for you when your mum and dad argued.

This was not your fault, it was your mum and dad’s job to take good care of you, and sadly they didn't.
Narrative example 1

Someone noticed that your mum and dad were not taking really good care of you, and they talked to Social Services because they were so worried.

Social Services were worried too, so I went out to meet with your mum and dad to talk to them about all the things that they needed to do to take good care of you.

Your mum and dad wanted to change; they said they were going to look after you properly, and make sure you went to school, and that you would have good food to eat.

I went out to see you, and your mum and dad lots of times because I needed to make sure your mum and dad would be able to look after you and keep you safe.

Things got a little bit better for a while, but your mum and dad were still arguing a lot, and sometimes you saw and heard them. One time you actually got hurt when your mum and dad were arguing.

We had a very special meeting with your mum, dad and other grown-ups; like your teacher, the police, and your health visitor.

Everyone was worried that you could get really badly hurt if you stayed with your mum and dad so we decided that you needed to live with other grown-ups who could look after you and keep you safe.

At the meeting we decided to find you a foster family, we thought that the family would take good care of you and keep you safe, and that is why you went to live with them.

Coman, Dickson, McGill & Rainey (2015)
Narrative example 1

Sometimes children stay with foster families for a short time, and then they go back home, or move to a new foster family. Sometimes children stay in foster families for a long time.

Your mum and dad think they were looking after you well, and they don’t want you to live with a foster family, they want you to go back home. When grown-ups disagree about where children should live, they have to talk to a Judge. A Judge is a very clever person who works in a special place called a court. A judge listens to everyone and then he decides who will keep children safe, and who will give them the best care.

I wonder what you think the Judge will decide. ……………………………
…………………………………………………………………………………
…………………………………………………………………………………

While you are living with ………… You will still be able to see your mum and dad.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 2-4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 2-4pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 3-</td>
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I will also see you at contact with your mum and dad, and I will come to visit you at ………………… house.

Coman, Dickson, McGill & Rainey (2015)
Narrative example 1

I am guessing that you will still have lots of questions and muddles.

So I have left some pages at the back of your booklet for you to write your muddles, questions and feelings down .............. can help you. You could even draw a picture, and when I come out to see you, I can help you with the questions muddles and feelings.