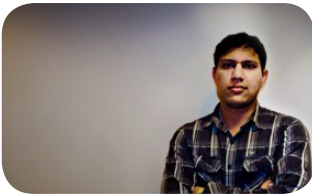


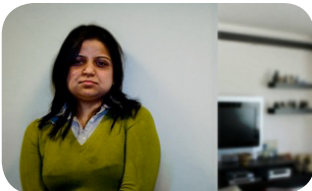
Background

The Akhtar family live in a new housing development on the edge of a large town. They moved there two years ago shortly after their first baby was born. The house is immaculately clean and well maintained.



Saleem Akhtar

Saleem Akhtar is 30 years old and works in a bank. He works long hours and with work and his commuting, he spends limited time at home. He was born in Pakistan but left when he was 2 years old, when his family relocated to the UK for employment reasons. His parents and extended family live 50 miles away in London and visit only a couple of times per year.



Mabina Akhtar

Mabina Akhtar is 26 and she gave birth to the couple's first baby 2 years ago. Prior to the birth Mabina had worked as a benefits adviser in the town where they lived, but no longer keeps contact with her work colleagues since they relocated to their new build house. She doesn't know anyone on the estate and she doesn't tend to use any of the local services. She does her shopping at an out of town complex and has no real regular social contacts. All her family still live in London, but she has telephone contact with her mother once a week.



Wasim Akhtar

Wasim Akhtar is their two year old son. He spends most of his time at home with his mum. The health visitor has continued to do regular home visits as she had concerns during Wasim's early months that he appeared to spend lots of time sleeping in his bedroom, but when he was brought downstairs, there were no indications that he had been asleep. He has no speech and communicates by pointing and gesturing. There is no apparent eye contact between Mabina and Wasim and the health visitor has never seen Wasim approach his mother for comfort or reassurance. He is a slim boy and his weight is in the 5th percentile (low weight for age), but Mabina reports that he eats well.

The health visitor has never seen any evidence of food preparation or cooking in the home and there are no toys visible in the downstairs of the house.

There is a travel cot in the hallway that Mabina says she uses to keep Wasim safe when she needs to go upstairs or answer the phone. Twice when the HV has called around recently, she has seen Wasim sitting in the cot, which is immaculately clean but there are no toys to be seen anywhere in the house.