Childhood Neglect: Improving Outcomes for Children



"I love going to school - it is my favourite place in the world...

My teacher is really kind to me and she looks after me. This morning, she gave me a biscuit for my breakfast and a glass of juice. When the other kids say I smell, she tells them off and sticks up for me.

I love the school dinners, they are the best thing I have ever tasted. I wish we could have food like that at home...but most nights we have a plate of chips for tea but sometimes for a treat, my dad lets us have just sweets...that's all...just loads of sweets - its great! Sometimes we don't have anything at all for tea and I go to bed with a rumbling tummy, but it goes off...

Some nights I can't get to sleep because there is loud music playing and I keep hearing the doors banging. I think that it is dad's friends coming in and out...I sometimes hear them laughing and shouting.

Troy plays on his play station in my room and it is fun because he sometimes lets me play.

Saturdays nights are fun because we get a baby sitter...sometimes it is Chloe or Jenny from down our street and they bring their boyfriends with them...they let us do anything we want and once, I played out in the garden until my mum and dad came home.

My teeth hurt a lot and the other kids say that I have smelly breath...

...my dad jokes that if I don't stop complaining, he will pull them all out for me! A lady that came to our school to do a check said that my mum needs to take me to the dentist but I haven't been yet..."

Susan Miller's story