

# TINA AND SAFFRON

**A Day in the Life**

**01.08.08**

**7.40am.**

I arrive at Tina's house. Tina greets me. Saffron is standing behind Tina in the kitchen doorway. I have not met Saffron before; she is now two and dressed in a floral summer dress, fawn brown combat pants and sandals. Tina introduces me to Saffron and tells her that I will be spending the day with them. Saffron hides behind Tina and clings to her leg. We go into the dining room. Tina offers me a drink and I say only if she is making herself one. She makes me a tea. Saffron is nervous around me. She calls for her mum and clings to her arm. Tina puts Saffron in her highchair. Saffron looks round anxiously for her mother. I notice that Tina has put out the medical record on the table. I ask Saffron if we should take a photograph and show her the camera. Saffron looks curiously at the camera. I show her the picture of the book.

**Picture 1: The medical health record book.**

Tina puts down the bowl of cornflakes on the table and Saffron's beaker. Saffron refuses to eat her cornflakes. Tina tells Saffron that if she doesn't eat her cornflakes then she will be hungry. Tina tells me that they are in the process of moving house and talks a bit about where they are moving to. She tells me about the rewiring that they had to do and about putting in a new kitchen. She explains the legal process to me as the house was owned by a charity after the owner died. Saffron looks at me curiously. Tina encourages Saffron to eat some cornflakes. Saffron plays with her spoon, makes faces and looks up at the ceiling. Tina says to Saffron, 'show Lucy that you can eat all your cornflakes up'. I tell Saffron that if she eats up all her cornflakes we can take a picture of the bowl and her spoon. Saffron eats her cornflakes and looks at me whilst she is eating. Tina disappears into the kitchen. She is ironing her top for the day. Saffron finishes her cornflakes and we take a picture. Saffron is interested in what the bowl looks like on the camera so I show her.

**Picture 2: Finished cereal.**

Once Saffron has finished the cereal Tina brings in a bowl of melon pieces. She says to Saffron, 'I know you don't like melon', and to me, 'she won't like this'. Tina leaves the room. I say to Saffron, 'shall we take a picture of the melon?' We take a picture and Saffron wolfs down the melon, towards the ends she crams in as many as 3 pieces of melon in her mouth.

**Picture 3: The bowl of melon.**

Tina sits back down at the table. She tells me that we are going to go to her sister's house later. I say that her sister is the only one in the family I have yet to meet. Tina tells me about her Nan and how she has now moved into a retirement flat that is very near her sister's house with her friend Stan and that she is happy there. She tells me that they (her Nan and Stan) spend half their time in her Nan's flat and half of the time in Stan's retirement flat. They drive between the two, although Tina has not been in the car with her for a while. She tells me that her Nan told her Mum that eight people in the flats have died already but that her Mum discovered that actually there

were just eight empty flats. Only one person had died in the flats. Saffron is sitting at the table playing with her hair bands. She lifts them in the air and calls them tails. Tina explains to me that she does not usually tie Saffron's hair up but that she came back one day from nursery with them and now she wants it tied up all the time. She asks Saffron if she wants the tails in her hair and Saffron says no.

Tina asks Saffron if she wants to get down from the table. Saffron says no. Tina continues to talk with me. She asks me about the project. We talk about the nursery where we are going for a picnic later. She tells me a lot of the people from her work send their children to the nursery. I ask her what that feels like. She tells me that it is a bit embarrassing because Saffron's friend's Mum works in the same building but she can never remember her name. She only knows her as his Mum. Tina asks Saffron again if she wants to get down from the highchair and with a hand from Tina she gets out of the chair. Tina and I get up from the table and follow Saffron. Tina shows me the conservatory and Saffron rummages through her toys. Tina explains that there is not enough room for the toys and despite asking for small toys everyone bought Saffron big toys for her birthday on purpose. Tina asks Saffron to show me her old doll. She tells me that Saffron enjoys playing with this doll.

Saffron begins to show me all the toys stored in a red bag. Tina asks me if she can leave us whilst she dries her hair. Saffron looks at me and waves at Tina and says, 'Bye mummy'. Tina and I laugh and Tina says, 'I am not going anywhere now.' Saffron and I go through her bag whilst Tina dries her hair.

Saffron plays on the trampoline. Then Saffron shows me a pile of pictures and stickers. After we have done this, Saffron picks out a packet of stickers from her Percy Pig comic. She asks me to peel them off and she sticks them on her hands and then puts them back. This goes on for a while until Tina comes back. She has changed into the spotty t-shirt she has ironed and high heeled sandals. Saffron says again, 'Bye mummy' we laugh and Tina tell me: 'that is a good sign she doesn't usually...'

Saffron continues to ask me to peel off the stickers and we talk about the colours of the stickers. She picks stickers to give her mum, sticks them on her hands and then returns them back to me. Tina changes the game and begins to stick the sticker on her nose and Saffron sticks them on her nose. Tina says to me it is amazing how long they can make a game out of nothing last.

Tina tells me about CBeebies. She likes to watch Jackanory as famous people read the stories and she likes to watch it just to see them. Saffron likes a cartoon called The Midnight Garden and she was so distressed when they stopped showing it in the summer that they had to buy her the Dvd. Even with the Dvd Saffron got upset at the end of the first episode because she thought it was going to end. Saffron's cousin of the same age enjoys Dora and Lazy Town and Tina's mum had taken her to see Lazytown at the theatre which they both (Tina's mother and niece) thoroughly enjoyed. Saffron's older cousin prefers High School Musical. Saffron at this point says 'kitchen' and pulls out the large kitchen. She struggles with it so I ask her where she wants it to go and help her move it. She says she wants it to go close to her mum. Saffron empties the whole box of accessories on the floor and Tina and I laugh. Tina asks her if she can make us a cup of tea. Saffron says no. I ask Saffron if she can

make us breakfast, Saffron says no. Tina asks if she will wash up and Saffron says no. Saffron plays with the kitchen toys.

#### **Picture 4: The Play Kitchen.**

Tina tells Saffron we need to go upstairs to brush her teeth. Saffron refuses and struggles slightly. Saffron is being difficult refusing to brush her teeth so I hang back slightly. She half heartedly brushes her teeth and Tina picks her up and brushes them herself. I take a picture of Saffron rinsing her toothbrush and washing her hands.

#### **Picture 5: Saffron rinses her tooth brush and washes her hands**

Tina then tells me that she is going to brush her teeth. Tina warns me that if I need to use the toilet they are out of toilet paper but have tissues. I follow Saffron into her room and she plays with one of her toys. Tina comes into the room and tells Saffron she is going to change her top as she is worried it is too cold. Tina and I look out of the window and wonder if it will rain for the picnic. Tina changes Saffron's top who struggles slightly and moans. Tina begins to stack up a pile of clothes for the day including a rain mack.

I ask Tina if the new house they have bought is bigger. She tells me that it has four bedrooms and talks some more about the work they are doing. Tina tells me that in the end her mother bought the house they are currently in as she was looking for a house to buy to let as she does not have a pension. When Tina had said they had found the house they wanted then her mother offered to buy theirs.

Throughout this conversation Saffron is desperately trying to get Tina's attention, tugging at her leg and saying 'Mummy' at an increasingly high volume. Eventually Tina picks up Saffron whilst continuing to talk to me. Saffron points a finger at me and says, 'who are you?' Tina continues to talk but Saffron is looking straight at me. As soon as there is a lull in the conversation I turn to Saffron and say, I am Lucy we are spending the day together. Tina says, yes this is Lucy she is spending the day with us, we better make a move. As her and Saffron work their way slowly down the stairs Tina explains the doctor's is not far (so we don't need to leave in advance.) Before we go Tina asks Saffron to put her toys away. She tells me that she usually asks her if she wants to put them away and then realises that is a silly approach as she never does.

**9.55am**

#### **Picture 6: Getting in the Car**

**10.00am**

#### **Picture 7: Arriving at the Health Centre**

We arrive at the health centre. Tina goes to the reception and registers Saffron. I notice Saffron has her father's surname. We sit on the plastic chairs. There are a couple of other children with their mothers. I ask Tina if this is where she came for her antenatal appointments she says yes. We talk about Saffron, as Tina is playing with her hair as she speaks. She tells me that her hair is quite short compared to the

other girls in her nursery. I ask her if she looks like her father at all and tell her they (Tina and Saffron) have the same eyes. We are called into the health visitor's room.

I close the door. The health visitor sits primly and asks Tina a series of questions about Saffron's development. She asks about her jabs (Saffron has had the MMR), her hearing, her sight (and advises that the opticians take children from the age of three), and if there are any problems. Tina tells her she has been concerned about a rash and that the cream the doctor provided did not work. The health visitor asked her if she used fabric conditioner. Tina uses sensitive skin fabric conditioner. The health visitor tells her not to and to tell the doctor the cream is not working. Tina also tells her that she is worried as Saffron's feet turn inwards when she walks. The health visitor assures her that this is quite common and that they would not usually be concerned unless it causes them pain. She tells Tina that it corrects itself.

The health visitor asks her if the family are registered with a dentist. They are. She tells Tina that she must use adult toothpaste with Saffron as there is no fluoride in the water. Saffron gets up from her mother's lap and begins to play with the toys on the floor.

### **Picture 8: With the Health Visitor**

At this point the health visitor asks Tina about Saffron's speech and learning development. Saffron talks to her mother whilst completing the puzzles. She often exclaims, 'mine'. She asks Tina if Saffron knows her colours. Tina says she does and her numbers. Tina smiles at me as she says it and says we were doing it earlier. Tina asks Saffron what colour the bits of the puzzle are. Saffron gets the first one right, blue but fails to get red or green. The health visitor changes the subject and says her speech is fine. She asks Tina if Saffron mixes well with other children. Tina explains that she plays with her cousins and also attends a nursery four days a week. The health visitor tells Tina that when it is time for Saffron to go to school that Tina must have registered her a year before. Tina tells the health visitor that they are planning to move soon. The health visitor gives Tina a leaflet about new mother and baby groups run by Sure Start that are taking place all over the city and encourages Tina to attend, saying that there are lots of different types of groups and activities. Tina takes the leaflet but does not seem over enthused. Tina and the health visitor fill in the red health book.

On the way to Tina's sister's house she tells me a bit about her sister's career. She tells me that her sister has recently been organising events and had to negotiate reducing her hours after maternity leave from full time to part time. On the way Tina points out where her mother lives and tells me her Nan is also nearby. We arrive and pull up a big gravel driveway. There is a double garage built into the extension. Tina tells me that the house was originally half the size but her sister had the extension built.

**10.40am**

### **Picture 9: Arriving at her Sister's House**

Her sister opens the door with her two daughters. Both daughters are blond, one wears glasses and is wearing a High School Musical t shirt. The girls crowd round

Tina and Saffron. They have made a present for Saffron out of men's boxer shorts boxes. It is a hammer. Tina introduces me. She explains I am here to spend the day with Saffron. When the children run off together she tells her sister I am here to document a day in the life of a mother. She tells her sister about the health visitor and how the health visitor told her that the medical book is used all over the world. We move into the kitchen/living area. It is enormous and beautifully decorated. The furniture is light beige leather and the room is full of light. The living area has double doors looking out onto a massive garden with a wooden two story Wendy house, swings and a slide. The children run outside to play.

I ask Tina's sister about when she moved in and about the work she has done. She tells me she has lived there for a year and a half and they did the work whilst living there. We look at the sky and wonder if it will rain. They talk about getting the food for the picnic and I realise that Tina's sister and her children are also coming to the picnic. Tina explains to me that her sister's children also went to the same nursery. Tina and her sister arrange that Tina will get the food and her sister sits nonchalantly crossed legged on the chair and says that is good because then she can go out for lunch. I take pictures of the children playing in the garden from a distance. Tina's sister tells me they are playing in the enchanted fairy wood.

**Picture 10: Cousins playing**

**Picture 11: The Fairy Wood**

**Picture 12: Wendy House ('Work')**

Tina asks me to show her sister the photographs and tells her that she is going to do this for herself because all she has is photographs of occasions. We leave the house and get in the car, they all wave us off. Once in the car Tina explains that if it rains we will just have the picnic inside at her sister's house. We talk about going to work, I ask if it feels a bit of a shift from the morning's activities and she explains that usually when it is nursery it is much easier. Tina tells me she will be finished at about 2.30 and that then we can go to the supermarket. I walk with her to her office..

**2.50pm**

**Picture 13: Shopping for the picnic**

Tina drives us to the supermarket. I ask her how the morning was. She tells me that she did not find much time to do everything and she often finds it hard on a Friday to get much done. I ask her what time she is going out that evening and she reminds me that it was last week she was going out, the week we cancelled. She tells me that it is hard to find babysitters in order to go out. A couple of weeks ago they had gone on a night out organised by the British Legion in a working mans club. They had organised a babysitter only to discover that everyone else had brought their children. She didn't realise it would be okay to take children where people were drinking. Then they were the only people without a baby.

**Picture 14: Picnic food**

Tina says, actually there is not much choice in here. Tina chooses grapes, white bread rolls, cheese straws, crisps, jammy dodgers and 3 cartons of drink.

We get in the car and head again to her sister's house. On the way to her house we talk about her Nan. She tells me that when her Nan was choosing an area for her retirement flat she choose rough areas and refused to listen to their protestations. Her Nan does not realise, according to Tina that the world has changed and there are rough people with knives and guns. Tina is not sure who her Nan spoke to but she eventually changed her mind and they were able to find her the flat close to them.

### **3.15pm: Arriving at Sister's House**

Outside the front door there is a dirty nappy in a bag. Tina explains that the bin is too far away and wonders what carnage we will find inside. We go into the back garden. Saffron and her cousins have been painting. They are half naked, Saffron is wearing only a nappy and all are covered in purple paint. The paints and paper are spread out on a large waterproof mat. The girls clamour to show Tina their paintings. Tina's sister shows us everything that has been painted in order starting with the coloured pebbles and then the paintings before the colours ran into the purple sludgy colour. Gail tells Tina she is doing a picture of her. Dawn the youngest cousin rips off a bit of her painting and tells me it is for me. I thank her and I take a picture of the paintings.

### **Pictures 15: Painting**

Gail, Tina sister's oldest child asks Tina, 'So what did you do today Aunty Tina?' Tina tells her she did lots of work. The children continue to paint and Tina and I watch for a bit whilst her sister busies herself and occasionally tells the children to put the paintings on the grass to dry. Tina's sister takes each child one by one and washes them down in the paddling pool. Tina comments that the hedge looks neater. Tina's sister explains her neighbour cut it whilst we were away. She tells us about her neighbour's attempts to grow the hedge really high so that he would not be able to see the extension they have built. She explains he seems to have got over this pettiness now and has begun cutting the hedge.

It begins to spot with rain. Tina's sister exclaims that her washing is going to get wet. Tina says she will do it and I say I will help her. I take a few pictures of Tina collecting the washing and her sister when she joins her. Tina's sister exclaims to Tina you could have folded them first. Tina laughs.

### **Picture 16: Collecting in the Washing**

Tina's sister sits between us on the floor with the wash basket and folds the washing, from time to time she breaks the conversation instinctively to break up fighting between the girls she has seen out of the corner of her eye or to wipe sandy faces etc. Tina is relaxed and her interaction with the children less authoritarian. Tina's sister suggests that Tina makes us tea and says she would like a coffee. I wander out into the garden to see the children. They are all playing in a small sandpit on the decking. Back inside Tina, her sister and I sit round over coffee and chat about future weekend activities. Tina asks her sister about childcare. Her sister's in-law is taking them to their house, it is the first time they have done this since Dawn was born. Tina tells me that last week her sister -in -law looked after Saffron. Her sister- in- law has a new partner who has a motorbike and she tells me it is weird to see her arrive on the bike. I ask Tina how old her sister in law is and whether she thinks she will have children.

She thinks that her sister in law probably won't have any children as she is in her forties.

Saffron comes running in wearing a nappy. She has a play plastic cleaning bottle which she pretends to squirt over the surfaces as if she is cleaning. Shortly after Tina's sister says that will be Ian (Tina's partner) influence. I ask if he is very tidy remembering her mentioning this in her first interview, Tina says he is but that Saffron copies her cleaning as she does like to give the bathroom a good clean every Saturday. She tells me it is worrying what she can get her hands on and asks her sister where she got the toy from. Her sister tells her it was just a cheap pack of toys and that Tina could just fill an old bottle with water and let her use that.

Tina decides to go and change Saffron's nappy so I ask her sister about her working a childcare patterns. She works 2.5 days a week which she tells me works really well. Her youngest daughter goes to a local child minder down the road. Her eldest daughter did attend the same nursery as Saffron but she felt it was too far away to fit with her work routine. We all continue to talk, interspersed by interruptions from the children at various points. At one point Saffron and the youngest cousin Dawn are fighting over a doll. Saffron is exclaiming: 'Mine'. Tina's sister is not in the room and Tina breaks up the fight saying: 'It is not yours all the babies are shared. We share everything.' At another point, Saffron comes marching in a nappy looking purposefully for something. Tina's sister laughs and says, she is quite a madam, she is going to be a real handful when she is older.

#### **4.00pm**

The sky continues to darken and eventually there begins a heavy downpour of rain. Tina's sister dashes out to collect in the remaining washing, put the lid on the sandpit and close the patio doors. Everyone is in the living area and there is also the addition of prams and dolls.

Tina decides that she is going to make the sandwiches for the picnic. Gail asks Tina if we are still going to the picnic. I am wondering the same thing. Dawn is sat on the sofa with a blanket and a dummy she looks sleepy. Tina tells her, I am going to the picnic. The rain pounds on the patio doors. Tina decides she is going to make the sandwiches for the picnic. Tina's sister suggests she makes jam sandwiches. Whilst Tina is making the sandwiches and her sister is putting the laundry away the children sit quietly beside me and read books. Dawn shows me her story book. I take pictures of Tina preparing the picnic. Tina's sister asks her children what teddy they would like to take for the teddy bears picnic. Tina shows them Saffron's bunny. Dawn picks out a teddy but Gail (the oldest) refuses. Tina's sister asks slightly impatiently why she won't pick a teddy for the teddy bears picnic. Gail says she will just share Dawn's teddy. Tina says, 'fair enough'.

#### **Picture 17: Preparing the Picnic.**

Whilst Tina's sister is dressing her children for the picnic Tina and I chat. Saffron goes to the fridge, seemingly to look at the paintings stuck on it. Tina tells me a story about Saffron swallowing a fridge magnet a couple of weeks ago. She knew she had swallowed it even though she didn't choke. They took her to casualty. It was a bit of a

nightmare as she had prepared to meet a friend afterwards. She had already blown this friend out a week before because she couldn't find a babysitter. Then she had to phone her friend and tell her that they were in causality. The medics were fine. They told her not to worry and that the magnet would gradually work its way out itself and it did. Gail had also swallowed a twenty pence piece recently. But in Gail's case the medics had advised that they keep an eye on her.

The children are all congregating by the front door. Saffron is wearing a bright white cardigan which instantly makes her outfit look clean and fresh. Gail is wearing a pale yellow hand knitted cardigan, a spotty bright pink skirt and green frog wellingtons. Tina's sister asks Gail hopefully if she would prefer to wear her shoes. Gail wants to wear her wellies. Tina's sister has put on a long crocheted cardigan. We go out to the car. Tina turns to me and asks me if we have the picnic and if we have forgotten anything. I tell her that her sister has the picnic.

We drive in the car to the nursery. Tina tells me about the day. It is a celebration they have been working on all week. The children have been making pictures to decorate the walls. The nursery is thirty years old. We arrive at the security gate to the nursery. The staff are making a list of the people who are coming in Tina gives her name and explains that I am a researcher from the OU who has come to observe. The staff smile at me enthusiastically and hurry us through, there is a queue. Tina stands hovering near the entrance with Saffron. I wander off to get a picture of the wider scene of the nursery.

### **Picture 18: The nursery picnic**

The space is immensely crowded and I find it difficult to take everything in. Children as young as two and as old as eleven are playing on the play park. On the grassy area groups of parents are sat on picnic blankets. Some of the children are dressed up. I spot a Spiderman, Lazytown characters and Snow White. Tina is immersed in conversation with a blond haired woman by the entrance. I take a couple of pictures of the setting. Two women sat on a picnic blanket are looking at me curiously. I wander for a bit around the nursery taking pictures of the decorations.

Tina explained to me that the woman she was talking to has an eight year old who attended the nursery in the past. Saffron is standing looking curiously at a small blond haired boy. I point this out to Tina who tells me he is her friend. They joke that Saffron is confused and disorientated because it is a Friday and she does not come to nursery on a Friday.

We move away and I tell Tina that it is a lot to take in but that it seems a very nice environment. I ask her if the children are mainly those of the staff in her workplace. She points out that some of the childcare workers get a discount to send their children there and that some children can come as part of the tax credit scheme and that there are also international families. I scan the yard and spot one child with slightly dark skin. Everywhere else appears to be a mass of white children and apparently middle class families. I think what a contrast this is to the town as a whole which has a large ethnic population particularly in the poorer central housing estates. Tina explains that most people do not know about the nursery and that her sister only found out about it because Tina suggested it for Gail.



We sit on the blanket Tina has brought with her. They unpack the picnic. Gail complains she does not like any of the food. Tina's sister lists the food one by one but Gail says she does not like any of it. Tina's sister says they do not have anything else. Tina's sister takes a sandwich and tells me that she has not had a jam sandwich in ages. Tina eats all the tubes of cheese because the children do not like it. I take a picture of the picnic food.

We chat about the day. Tina's sister tells me again that Gail used to come here. She points out to Gail an old friend who is playing on the slide. Tina's sister tells me that he is Spanish and that Gail would come back from nursery speaking in Spanish. Tina asks her sister if she would consider bringing Dawn to the nursery. Her sister brushes this suggestion off at first, it is probably too late, not worth it and then wonders if it is worth it. Looking around I comment that there are a few fathers attending the day. Her sister agrees and says they probably work locally. Tina does not comment.

There is an announcement and the staff of the centre are talking. We cannot hear what they are saying, children continue to shriek in the background. Someone on a nearby blanket says in a plummy voice; 'I am sure they are saying something monumentous but I can't hear it'. I notice a few young mothers sitting alone on their blanket or couples sitting alone together with young babies. I take a picture from a distance of the families picnicking on the lawn.

They announce raffle tickets and Tina's sister leaps up to buy some. Tina asks her sister to buy some for her. As they announce the raffle tickets Tina shouts across to a friend that she should check the numbers. The friend has won and goes to collect her prize, £25 of book vouchers. She thanks Tina.

The children are playing on the climbing frame so I wander down to watch. I have notice how Saffron often wanders off when Tina is talking and she seems quite relaxed about this. Saffron dangles from the ropes. There are lots of children on the frame, lots of fingers hanging and clumsy feet finding their footing. I am slightly anxious that something is going to happen to the Wagland children under my supervision. On cue Gail comes over and asks me if I will help Dawn walk over the climbing frame. Gail waits in anticipation on the ladder, luckily Tina's sister is there in a flash and helps Gail to walk over the frame. After a while we return to the picnic.

Cake comes round and Tina's sister exclaims how nice it is. I notice Saffron on the slide. It is a big slide and she is surrounded by other children but goes down anyway. Tina and her sister laugh and I comment that she is quite fearless.

At this point it begins to gradually rain and then downpour. We run for the shelter of a large tree. I sense that Tina's sister has had enough, Tina appears happy to wait under the shelter of the nursery. The children are by this point running about in the rain and are soaking wet. Tina's sister comes back with umbrellas, one of which she keeps for herself the other she gives to the children. Huddled under the shelter I take pictures of the children holding umbrellas, their faces covered.

### **Picture 19: Umbrellas in the Rain**

### **6.15 Leaving.**

Tina's sister says that she is leaving and Tina says she will also leave. The staff all say goodbye to Saffron. As Saffron looks at them blankly they make the joke that she does not know why she is there as she does not come in on a Friday. Tina picks up Saffron and I hold a big golfing umbrella (Tina's sister's umbrella) over us all as we hurry to the car. We get in the car and Tina drives for home. I comment that Tina's sister appears to be considering the possibility of sending Dawn to nursery. Tina says that she does seem to be wondering about it and she has wondered why she doesn't change. Tina tells me Saffron is used to going off and doing her own thing and seems more independent than her cousin. Tina does not have to worry about her in the nursery she is quite happy. It would be nice for Dawn and Saffron to go to nursery together. I suggest that her sister's current set up fits in better with her work. Tina says that she always feels it is easier for her sister as she works 2.5 days. She says that this enables her sister to be more organised, things like remembering the umbrella and taking a cardigan. She mentions the toilet paper as an example of not having the time to get things done. I ask her if that is quite a typical day, if she would usually spend time hanging out at her sister's house. She tells me no, that usually she would spend her Friday afternoon with friends. Sometimes it is time for herself, for example when her sister-in-law looks after Saffron all day. When her sister does usually look after Saffron she would usually pick her up and go straight away. The last couple of weeks it has been her mum and her sister who have looked after Saffron and she often finds herself phoning them trying to track them down after work where they have gone off for lunch. We return to the house. Tina wonders if Ian is back but he is not in the house.

### **6.30: Downtime**

Tina changes Saffron into some dry clothes and asks her if she wants a bath. Saffron says she does not want a bath. We sit in the living room. The living room is neat, tidy, and beige with little sign of baby. There is a picture of Saffron as a baby with a pink dummy in her mouth frames on the sideboard. Tina puts on a DVD for Saffron called The Midnight Garden. Saffron also has a Noddy CD out but she does not want to listen to it. We go through the picture on the cover and she names the characters. Saffron climbs behind Tina and flings her arms around her neck. She seems much more talkative now and often says 'Mummy' in a questioning voice. She then starts lunging at Tina in a playful way pushing back her neck. This seems a playful intimate time. Ian later phones to say he will be home later, he is in the supermarket picking up dinner. Tina explains he has had a bad day.

### **7.00: Bathtime**

Tina asks again if Saffron wants a bath. Saffron refuses but Tina decides she is anyway and we go upstairs. I take a picture of the bath and the bath toys before Saffron gets in. I stay in the doorway whilst Tina washes Saffron. I ask Tina about Ian's business. She explains that she drew up the business plan for him imagining that they would get work from local football teams but that in fact they get work from Ski schools and golfing tournaments. The phone rings and I ask Tina if she wants me to get it, she says no she will get it and leaves me with Saffron. She comes back and tells me it was her friend. Her friend has no children and she doesn't understand that Tina can't speak on the phone sometimes.

### **Pictures 20: The Bath**

Tina lifts Saffron out of the bath and takes her into her bedroom to dry her and put her pyjamas on. They look out of the window together to see if Ian is home. I take a picture of Saffron and Tina choosing a book for a bedtime story. Ian usually reads the story and Saffron has her milk. They choose a different book from the book Saffron usually chooses (usually *The Midnight Garden*).

### **Picture 21: Choosing a Book.**

Ian comes home and Saffron gets excited. Saffron exclaims; 'Daddy, daddy!' and bounces up and down on the changing mat. Ian comes upstairs and says hello to me, he is startled to see me but is friendly. He gives Saffron a kiss and shows her his key ring which has a photo of Saffron on it. I take a picture of the shopping. Tesco's bags which seem to include toilet paper.

### **Picture 22: The Shopping**

We go back downstairs whilst Ian gets changed. I have found no time to do the questionnaire or consents with Tina so ask her to fill them in and return in the post. Tina is making the milk with Saffron. My taxi arrives and Saffron says goodbye. I thank Tina and say to Ian that it was nice to meet him.

**7.30 END**