



## Finding a happy place

This is a story about your settling in, Mihnea, at your new childcare centre. When we arrived in New Zealand two months ago, you were only three and you didn't know any English words. Everything was new for you and our family, so we had to adapt to a new home, new people, new friends, a new place altogether... Your very friendly and sociable nature has helped you a lot in this process of settling. You play with and sometimes alongside other children, but you are still a bit shy, and you come to me for comfort at times. It is wonderful that we are here together and I am glad that I can help you settling in in your new home.

I have noticed that every morning you come in, you have a quick look around and then you shoot off to the shelves with puzzles. At the beginning there were easier puzzles, with fewer pieces, and progressively you have started to complete more complex ones. I haven't heard you asking for help and I have noticed that you don't move to another activity until you complete the puzzle you work on.

This shows perseverance, patience and diligence, Mihnea. Perhaps completing puzzles is a perfect way for you to settle in at childcare and to get used to what is going on around you. It is a quiet activity, which engages your mathematical thinking and your observation skills. It is about matching colours, shapes and seeing the big picture of the completed puzzle in your head.

I am glad that you have found your place here and I need to make sure that I provide new and challenging puzzles for your busy mind.

Ka pai, Mihnea! I am glad you feel at home in New Zealand!

P.S. I am going to translate this story in Romanian below, so that your Romanian whanau, especially your grandparents, can read it too.

## Aici sunt fericit

Aceasta este povestirea care descrie cum te-ai acomodat tu la noua gradinita, Mihnea. Cand am venit in Noua Zeelanda, acum doua luni, nu aveai decat 3 ani si nu stiai nici un cuvânt in limba engleza. Totul a fost nou pentru tine si familia noastra, asa ca a trebuit sa ne adaptam intr-o casa noua, sa ne obisnuim cu oameni noi, sa ne facem prieteni noi, intr-un loc complet necunoscut. Firea ta prietenoasa si sociabila te-a ajutat mult sa te adaptezi. Te joci cu copiii si uneori singur, uneori esti putin timid si vii la mine, sa te alin. E grozav ca suntem aici impreuna si ca pot sa te ajut sa te obisnuiesti in noua ta gradinita.



Am observat ca, in fiecare dimineata cand vii la gradinita, te uiti repede in jur si apoi te indrepti spre rafturile cu puzzle. La inceput completai puzzle-uri mai usoare, cu cateva piese, apoi treptat, ai inceput sa construiesti puzzle-uri mai mari, mai complexe. Nu te-am vazut sa ceri ajutor si am observat ca nu te joci cu altceva pana nu termini un puzzle. Aceasta arata ca ai rabdare si esti perseverant. Poate ca puzzle-urile sunt o activitate care te ajuta sa te obisnuiesti cu gradinita si cu se intampla in jurul tau. E o activitate linistita, care te ajuta sa gandesti matematic si iti dezvoltă spiritul de observatie. Trebuie sa potrivesti culorile si formele, si sa vezi imaginea completa cu ochii mintii.

Ma bucur ca te-ai obisnuit aici si o sa ma asigur ca ai tot timpul puzzle-uri si jocuri la dispozitie, pentru ca iti place sa te mentii ocupat.

Bravo, Mihnea, ma bucur ca te simti ca acasa in Noua Zeelanda!