

My New Aunty and Uncle



Joanna Munro



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My New Aunty and Uncle



by Joanna Munro

This book helps children imagine what it is like to join Aunties & Uncles, a program for special kids to spend time with another family.


Julie is my aunty.
I get to stay at her
house for a whole
weekend every
month.



Aunties and uncles are special people in your community who like to spend some of their free time with a special child like you.


Usually you get to see your aunt or uncle for a weekend once a month but it depends on how much free time they have got.

Sometimes it may only be an aunty and sometimes only an uncle. Some aunties and uncles have their own children.




It is important that you like your new aunty or uncle so you and your family get to meet them first. If you don't think you'll get on, talk about that with the Aunties & Uncles caseworker.

There are lots of children waiting to get an aunty and uncle so sometimes it can take quite a while.




My sister Ebony
has a different
aunty and uncle

A photograph of two boys lying on a bed, reading a book together. The boy on the left is older, with short brown hair, wearing an orange t-shirt and blue jeans. He is pointing at the book. The boy on the right is younger, with short brown hair, wearing a white shirt with blue and orange accents. He is resting his chin on his hands. A speech bubble is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text: "I share a room with Joel when I stay the night!".

I share a room
with Joel when I
stay the night!

Where you sleep depends on your aunty or uncle's house. You might have your own room and bed or you might share a room with your aunt or uncle's children. Or you might sleep on a sofa bed.

Remember it is not okay to share a bed with anyone else.




Joel is a special
friend now...

Soon staying with your aunt or uncle will feel like having a second home.


If you ever want to phone home that should be okay, but remember to ask your aunty or uncle first.

If you get sick your aunt or uncle will let your mum or dad know as soon as they can.




Sometimes you might stay at your aunt or uncle's home and play or you may go to the park or the beach.

Remember you can always let your aunty or uncle know the kind of things you would like to do.

A young boy with brown hair, wearing a blue watch and dark shorts, is sitting in the shallow ocean waves. He is looking to the left with a joyful expression. The water is a mix of light blue and white foam. A white speech bubble with a black outline is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the image, containing text.

I get to do fun
things when
I stay with my
aunty!



Aunty Julie
has even been
teaching me
to swim!

Sometimes your aunt or uncle may help you learn new things or help you with your home work. It really depends on what your aunty or uncle like doing.

It's important to remember that spending time with your aunty and uncle is the best part about having an aunty or uncle.



I hate eating
zucchini. What if
my aunty says I
have to eat them?

Nobody is going to force you to eat anything but remember it's really good to try new foods.

If there is something that you really don't like, are allergic to or shouldn't have, make sure that your mum or dad tell your aunt or uncle.




Joel shares his
things with me.

Your aunt and uncle will enjoy spending time with you if you behave well.

Make sure you share with other kids, respect other people's stuff, say please and thank you, be helpful and friendly and listen to your aunt or uncle.

People don't like it if you hit or punch or kick or bite or steal or swear or break things on purpose or be mean and hurtful to others.



Your aunt or uncle or their family or friends are not allowed to smack you or scream at you.

They are not allowed to do anything that scares you or makes you feel embarrassed.

If you are old enough to wash yourself in the bathroom at home, then you are old enough to wash yourself in privacy at your aunt or uncle's place too.

Julie was upset when
I smashed a window
throwing balls around
the backyard.
But she did say it was
an accident.



A young child with light brown hair and bangs is giving a thumbs up. The child is wearing a blue and orange striped shirt. A speech bubble is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Aunties and
uncles rules okay!

For Parents

Be honest with the Aunty or Uncle as to what you expect from the relationship. Do you see the relationship involving the whole family or just your child and the Aunt/Uncle.

The Aunty or Uncle should not take over areas of responsibility that are rightfully yours as your child's parents.

The Aunty or Uncle should not be a 'Santa Claus' figure, a convenient babysitter or a taxi service for your child.

Please don't use the threat of loss of the Aunty or Uncle as a means of discipline for your child. Such a threat would undermine their relationship.

Don't expect that existing problems in your relationship with your child will suddenly be solved because of the involvement of an Aunty or Uncle in your child's life.

Encourage your child to be considerate of special occasions in the life of his or her Aunty or Uncle. A phone call or birthday card made by your child would be a lovely surprise.

Each Aunt or Uncle are giving their time, attention and concern to the relationship with no payment. Therefore it is important that you consider how you can show your appreciation. Often a simple 'thank you for taking an interest in my child' is enough.

Volunteer Aunties and Uncles go through a lot of checks and training before they are accepted in the program. If something does happen that makes your child feel scared, sad or uncomfortable please encourage them to tell you and report that to the caseworker as soon as possible. We will take the necessary steps to ensure that your child is protected.

