Jordan is 18 months old. His mother Emma drops him at childminder Kerry’s house at 8:30am one Monday (15 minutes late), saying that she’s in a rush as she’s going to be late for work, they had a dreadful weekend and Jordan wouldn’t eat any breakfast. He is sucking a dummy and smiles at Kerry who lifts him up and cuddles him while she tells his mother not to worry, perhaps they can have chat when she collects him later. His mother kisses Jordan quickly and turns to go, forgetting to wave at the gate as she normally does.

Jordan cries and struggles to get out of Kerry’s arms. Kerry puts him gently down on the kitchen floor, bends her knees so she is talking to him at his level and says, ‘Jordan, I know you’re sad, Mummy will be back later. Would you like some toast like Adam’s?’ (looking towards the small table where her own son Adam (2 years) is sitting). Jordan stops crying and runs over to Adam and snatches the toast from his hand, Adam shouts and rises to pursue Jordan, but Kerry quickly gives him a replacement piece of toast from the plate she had prepared for Jordan before he arrived. She talks gently to both of them and sits with them while they finish their toast and have some fruit and drinks. She notices that Jordan seems very tired and reluctant to let his dummy out of his sight. She was planning to take both boys to a stay-and-play session at the local children’s centre but decides against it as she knows that Jordan will find it difficult this morning and he will probably have a sleep if she reads a book with them on the sofa. She’ll then be able to put him in his buggy and wheel him outside where Adam will be happy to continue playing with two buckets and some small stones which he spent a long time with yesterday. He will be very excited to find that Kerry has added another bucket, some bigger stones, some shells and a box of keys. When Jordan wakes up after about an hour he’ll be happy to find himself outside as he always likes to be in Kerry’s backyard as he has no outdoor area at home. When Emma comes to collect Jordan, Kerry will suggest they make a time to talk properly about Jordan.

In this scenario, as well as tuning into Emma, Jordan and Adam, Kerry has ‘tuned in’ to herself and managed her own feelings about the following:

* Emma was late last Monday as well as this one. Monday is when she is supposed to pay Kerry.
* She is now 3 weeks behind with her payments.
* Emma earns more than Kerry.
* Emma looks very tired and anxious and seems to be trying to avoid talking with Kerry.
* Kerry is not sure what is happening with Jordan’s father who seems to have come back into their lives after about a year’s absence
* Jordan bit Adam last Monday morning just after Emma left him.

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