# Transcript – Joyce and Matt Twigge

*Instrumental music in the background throughout the audio.*

**Joyce:** Hi. My name’s Joyce.

**Matt:** And my name’s Matt.

**Joyce:** Surname Twigge.

**Matt:** As in branch of a tree.

**Joyce:** My first idea, or should I say our first idea on fostering, was when I was pregnant. I had difficult pregnancies, and I spent a lot of my time in hospital and one of the hospitals in New Zealand where we were living at the time, they had this little baby, he was being put up for open adoption and because the ward was really really busy, they would wheel this little baby boy into me and I would feed him and bath him. He was just such a beautiful little boy and he needed someone to love him so that really got me thinking.

**Matt:** I think the thing with foster caring...we know that Billy or Mary’s coming across the front door they’re going to go back out at some stage and whether we’ve got them for a day, five days, five weeks or five months...what can we do to invest and make a change? And it’s just a big deal when you see someone that couldn’t count to 10. They can count to 10. There’s lots and lots, many different things but it’s not about the number of kids that we’ve looked after it’s about hey what can we do for this particular foster child and it’s never easy when they go but that’s what we do.

**Joyce:** Yeah, it is what we do and as Matt says I had someone say to me the other day how do you do it? I’d love to do it. How do you do it? I could never say good-bye. I could never say good-bye. And I just said to them I don’t look at the good-bye. I don’t even focus on that end date because I don’t know when that end date is.

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Joyce:** So I look at what we can do at the present moment in time and what we’ve got there.

**Matt:** Yeah, at that time.

**Joyce:** One of the things for me was being there the moment a child learnt how to cry.

**Matt:** Oh yeah.

**Joyce:** We had a child who couldn’t express his emotions.

**Matt:** Yeah huge.

**Joyce:** And he couldn’t cry. He would fight it, and this was going on for three months, four months, five months, and I was working so hard and one day I just sat with him and I had tears in my eyes and I’m saying to him you know just watch the tears roll down my cheeks, you feel them coming down and I was getting him to feel the wetness on my face and I was, had his hand and I’m trying to tell him that it’s okay this is what’s in your eyes, you need to let the tears fall because he wouldn’t let them come...and they came, they came

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Joyce:** and I just...I just cried. He cried. We cuddled. We just sat on the floor just huddled together. That moment was a breakthrough in that child’s life forever. Forever and ever.

**Matt:** Yep, yep, for sure.

**Joyce:** Because that was something special so that’s away from the normal reading writing, the learning, the riding the bikes,

**Matt:** Yeah.

**Joyce:** the playing with the computer, the normal stuff that you teach kids. This was something different and he did it and it was...yeah...a big thing.

**Matt:** Huge. If there’s anyone out there contemplating, sitting on the fence, just get in and have a go.

**Joyce:** Yeah. Dip your toes in.

**Matt:** And you know if it’s not two, three months in, six months in if it’s not what you thought well no big deal but you know if you’re still doing it in one or two years...good job.