

IAPA Au Pair of the Year Award 2014

We would like to nominate Cristina Boix Tecles for this award.

Cristina has been with us just over five months, and she is really a part of the family. She is a very happy and upbeat person, and it is a pleasure to see her when we come downstairs every morning. Even in difficult situations, she is strong and positive. We had one very scary experience which has impacted all of us. During the heavy storms in the south of England early in the morning on 28th October 2013, 4 trees were blown over, writing off our car, flattening our shed, gates and oil tank and falling on the roof and bathroom of Cristina's annex. She was fortunately still in bed, but her bedroom was right next to the bathroom which was destroyed and basically filled with part of the trunk of one of the trees. We are very thankful that it was not 15 minutes later when she would most likely have been up and in her bathroom.



We were amazed at how Cristina continued on with the daily routine of looking after the children despite this incident, even that same day. Even though she is not as comfortable in a spare room in our house while we wait for the insurance company to repair the damage to her annex, she has never once complained. Thankfully, it should be fixed soon so that she can move back in and have her own space.

Besides this one incident, which we believe has most clearly defined Cristina's positivity, she is also a fun person to have around. She is happy to help out and goes the extra mile which makes her a fabulous au pair. She never has to be asked twice to do anything and is very organised. She is also able to occupy her time and does not require entertaining, which is great for the times we have as a family together on the weekend. The children love her and often ask if she will be helping to do things like decorate the Christmas tree, as they view her as part of the family. When she came back from her Christmas holiday they both went into her room and snuggled up with her watching TV as they had missed her. Cristina is brave, and during the holidays was happy to take the children off on her own into London to the zoo and

the aquarium. She is also firm, however, and they listen to her and tidy up. Cristina is also a good cook, and makes sure the children don't fill up on fruit or juice before their dinner. She tidies and cleans up very well after the children. Cristina is a music teacher and is therefore able to help our children become interested in music (they are too young to start playing at the moment). They listen to music in the car and sing along to the songs. It's great for them to have this influence.

We are thrilled that Cristina has said that she will be with us for longer than one year (she can stay as long as she likes!) It will be very hard to replace her in so many ways.

Paul, Sarah, James and Rebecca Shackleton