



## **TTS Small World Family Figures (EL45040, EL45041, EL45042, EL45043, EL45044)**

*Beccie Hawes, Head of Service with Cadmus Inclusive, shares with us her review of the TTS Small World Family Figures.*



### **You can Choose Your Friends but Not Your Family...or so They Say**

My Nanny Rene would always tell me I was stuck with her. She meant this in the nicest of ways. She'd remind me constantly that I could choose my friends but not my family – they were a given and she certainly was here to stay. I didn't mind; she was an incredible lady whose memories of her strong matriarchal prowess I treasure. I think she single-handedly made sure I didn't have too many attachment difficulties as she was my significant human. A safe base from which I could explore the world.

As an adult I have ended up proving my Nanny Rene somewhat wrong (sorry nan). I now live, in a blended family. Through choice and my second marriage, I am a mum to my biological son, step mum to three fantastic sons and mum to a dog and a puppy. I am blessed with a great husband. We have all chosen each other and worked hard to achieve the happy family dynamic that we have ten years after our first coming together.

The fairy tale ending of always remaining happily with the family you are born into isn't a thing for all our children. In today's times the traditional 2.4 children with a mum and dad now looks very different. It takes all sorts to make a world, and all sorts can make a family. To help our children explore, process and make sense of this reality, I feel that it is important that we offer the right resources to do just that. That's where toy figures such as the TTS Small World Family Figures come in. They offer a valuable opportunity for children to create a family of their own and represent people, communities and cultures with a collection of wooden figures.

The best bit for me is that the wooden figures can be anyone from anywhere – a chosen, hand-picked collection of significant or insignificant others that resonate exactly with the type of families that our children experience. That can be family in its widest sense from Mum and Mum, Dad and Mum, Dad and Dad, Nan and my cousins, care-givers or the woman that lives over the road. It's about exploring who is important to you and why. You can choose this family and play out your reality. There is no expectation of who goes with who. It's yours – your family! This provokes so many important conversations about difference, understanding and acceptance.

With thanks to Beccie Hawes for sharing this review with us.