

Boy and video games addiction

Always quiet, calm and a good student, 14-years old boy, has slacked a lot at school in the last couple of months. He started getting lower grades, after the winter holidays, when his parents moved to Germany where they found jobs in a chocolate factory. Luka has stayed alone with his grandmother and a new gamer computer that was a Christmas gift from his parents.

Since his parents left he has spent more and more time in front of the computer. He played games and he told his grandma that he is doing school stuff. Grandma was very busy. She was a cleaning lady at the kindergarten and she also had a lot of work around the house, garden and barn. She didn't understand a lot about computers so she didn't know how to check what he is doing. Luka locked himself in his room more often because he was bored with grandmas' questions about what he is doing on the computer.

Grandma got used to locked doors and she is recently just knocking on the door when she brings lunch or dinner. Luka wakes up on time for school, but as soon as he comes from school he would go to his room, and as he said he was doing his homework. In fact, Luka didn't study at all anymore, but he spent long hours playing video games with his virtual friends.

In early April his parents were supposed to come and stay over the weekend. But, on Wednesday they called to tell him they have to work over the weekend because of some problems at work. On Friday when he got home from school, he sat in front of the computer and started to play his favourite game. He played all night long, but this time he didn't as usual went to bed just before morning to get some rest, he just continued to play. Grandma brought breakfast in the morning and noticed he hasn't touched his dinner from last night. She knocked on the door and asked what he wants for lunch since he didn't like the dinner. He just answered without any interest that he has eaten his stack of chips and he wasn't hungry. He promised to eat the breakfast. After that grandma went with her usual work routine.

In the afternoon she brought lunch and found breakfast in front of the door. She knocked, but Luka didn't answer. She knocked one more time. Again, there was no answer, but she heard a punch from his room. She realized that it might be Luka falling from the chair. She was frightened and called their next-door neighbour who came right away and broke down the door of Luka's room. Luka was found under his computer desk. He was unconscious. An emergency came soon, and his parents arrived the next day from Germany.

That happened two months ago. Now his friends from school come again to visit him and his grades have gone up. He has changed after his mother took him to therapy with a psychologist for a couple of months at the center for gaming addictions. In fact, sometimes his dad also drove him because both of his parents have returned from Germany and now they work in the nearby parquet factory.

After his therapy he just sometimes plays a video game with his dad, but not often. Somehow, he now likes more to play basketball one on one in the backyard or to help him at his little wood workshop. His dad recently made that in one corner of their garage.