



The Lowes: keeping kids happy

West Country Maypole Inn, Thurloxtton, Somerset

James and Jo Lowe have a young family and know and understand the problems parents face every day. "It is not only finding a place that serves really good food that has been made on site, but is also a welcoming and safe environment for our children."

James was working in a

restaurant and Jo in a hotel, when, two-and-a-half years ago, they heard the Maypole was up for sale. They jumped at the chance of taking on the Enterprise Inns' leasehold and creating a family pub that met all their expectations.

Jo recalls: "The kitchen was wall-to-wall microwaves and batch cooked food." So in came a proper children's menu with the likes of home-made fish fingers, chicken nuggets, and salmon and broccoli pasta, with nothing out of a packet

or a box. James remarks: "Kids don't want the same old food every time. Why can't they have a smaller bowl of mussels from the adult's menu, if that is what they want?"

Next on the agenda was creating an outdoor play area in the disused garden and field that came with the Maypole. It now has a large sandpit, swings, Wendy houses and other toys to keep the younger visitors happy and occupied.