

Cambridge News

# LIVING

Helping you make the most of life November 15, 2008

**Warming towards winter**

Style centre pages

**PLUS Getting your head together**

Health page 54



**Fashion • Food • Relationships • Health**

PLUS! Cambridge News **Saturday CLUB**

# 'I don't know what I'd do without her. She's fantastic'



Caring relationship: Lisa Lee, a single parent who is registered disabled, with her daughter Chloe, nine, who looks after her.

Picture: Warren Gunn 518683.

Cambridge News **LIVING**

**Real Life EXCLUSIVE**

■ **Alice Ryan**  
UK Regional Feature  
Writer of the Year



**R**EACHING for the remote control, Chloe Smith turns up the TV volume. "It's Take That's new video," explains the 9-year-old, with a grin. "I love them; Mark's my favourite. When I grow up I want to be a singer or a dancer and that way, with a bit of luck, I'll get to meet him! That would be so cool . . ."

At first glance, Chloe looks just like any other little girl her age. Bopping around her sitting room, singing along to Take That, she seems completely carefree. But, as her mum Lisa Lee explains, Chloe's life is often far from easy.

"I was registered disabled five years ago," she says. "I'm a single parent so Chloe has to help me with all kinds of things: if I'm in pain, she gets my tablets; she helps me with the cleaning and cooking; she helps me to get dressed.

"I love my daughter so much and it's hard sometimes: I feel as if I'm robbing her of her childhood, of the kind of childhood I had myself. She should be out enjoying herself, playing with her friends; instead she's here looking after me."

Suffering from a combination of debilitating conditions – including the pain disorder fibromyalgia – Lisa has been ill since long before her daughter was born.

■ continued on page 21