

## **Kate Lopez remembers the initial move to Hertford from Barcelona**

I'm Kate Lopez, and I've lived in Hertford for just under six years. Before coming to Hertford, we lived in Barcelona in Spain; we were there for nearly fifteen years.

I actually grew up in the Fens between Cambridge and Ely, in a really small rural community. I went out to Barcelona when I was in my late twenties, leaving London. Met my husband in Barcelona, my husband is half Spanish and half English, we got married out there, the girls were born there, and they had their first kind of education in Barcelona, so nursery and early years primary

*Had you heard of Hertford before you moved here?*

Paolo's got family in Hertfordshire, and his brother moved to Hertford, and so we'd visited Hertford, coming at Christmas, maybe going to the Hertford Theatre Pantomime.

For Paolo's job, he got offered a job in London, so we decided that we were going to make a move, and we knew we wanted to be this way, and even though we'd visited Paolo's brother, we didn't really know the town. I just had very clearly in my head that I wanted a town that had a community.

We decided to go for Hertford, Paolo came over about a month before we made the big move, spent a week going around schools and looking for somewhere to live, and a few frantic phone calls like "Oh well, there's this house" and "What do you think about this?"

We arrived, it was the summer, so the girls had holiday. They were six and four. I think for them, those few weeks probably just felt like they were visiting, so I think reality dawned when it was like the big, big lorry arrived with all our stuff, and we were like "No this is home now, you're gonna start school".