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| Fieldnote Note | 15 | Date | 21/06/21 |
| Locations | Bungalow 1Campus | Weather | Cloudy but generally warm |
| Child interactions | Dennis, Daniel, Brian, Graham, Simone, Red, [one of the children], Dom and James | Staff Interactions | Mary, Sammy, Philippa, Blane, Mick, Pru, Helen, Cheryl and Christopher |
| Times | 2.15 – 6.45pm | Total Time in field | 4.5 hours |
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Arrived on campus today as some of the staff were heading off to pick up the children from the school – Mary and Cheryl were heading out as I came in. In the Bungalow, Christopher and Sammy were in and I chatted away to them initially and then went up and saw Philippa in the office for a while as well. I was feeding back how nice a time I had had the last time I was in Bungalow 1.

I then positioned myself in the kitchen as the children started to arrive back. There was lots of chat and back and forth as different children came and went – Dennis seemed quite ‘up’ and full of energy in his interactions with the staff. Graham was liberal with the hugs and kisses, which was sweet. Daniel took to sorting out the snack and was putting out enough yoghurts to feed the 5000. The staff try to roll with Daniel as much as possible, taking into account his tendency to fixate on things. They still challenge him and try to move him on, but they also accept some things that it’s relatively straightforward to accept.

I was aware that Jonny was out with Thelma today as he was told today that he would be moving on Thursday to another placement. Philippa had explained to me that he has had some tough moves in the past and that he can attempt to ‘break down all relationships’ before the move and this is why they had decided to tell him quite close to the move. He was away visiting his new placement with Thelma and then spending some time with her.

Everyone ended up in their rooms/the front lounge, but I remained in the kitchen where I could still overhear the conversation from the other room and I could also watch some of the other children and staff come and go from the other bungalows, which was interesting. About 20 minutes after Brian arrived back, he asked if I would play football with him out on campus. This quickly resulted in him and Simone playing against me and Kris from bungalow 3. Kris had to go and then Brian lost interest after a little while and it ended up with me and Simone playing one on one for a good hour or so. This was a great opportunity for her to get to know me without it being pressurised as she has seemed a bit wary of me so far during fieldwork – if it makes her feel more comfortable to get to know me like this, then that’s worth putting myself through some serious physical exertion! During this time, she told me that she plays for a team/club and that’s she’s ‘going to football’ tonight. There were wee hints of self-esteem issues but she’s really good at football and I made sure to comment on her skills during our game. Others came and went during this time – Daniel as referee then James as referee, then [one of the children] joining with Simone and James against me and Blane. Pru took me and Simone into Bungalow 3 and gave us an ice lolly to help us cool down at one point and I got mine all down the front of my t-shirt.

Shortly after this, Mary called me in for my tea at Bungalow 1 and I commented that I was like one of the kids today – coming in from football covered in ice lolly and getting my tea. The dinner was a little more fractious that my previous experience and the needle between Brian and Daniel was continued. This all felt very familiar again and the interactions between the staff and children seemed as though they would be recognisable to any family dinner table: ‘right, that’s enough, sit down and eat your dinner’, ‘have you finished? Well put your plates in the dishwasher before you go’, ‘I don’t like these chips’.

After dinner, I was roped into more football, this time with Dennis – another good opportunity as he has been a little wary of me as well. This ended up with Simone (in full football kit) and him against me this time. This eventually morphed into him and Red against me and Simone and then Dom replaced Dennis. Again, Red is in Bungalow 3 and has always eyed me with some suspicion when he’s seen me on campus – so it really was relationship building football this afternoon!

The other thing that this showed me is that the kids from different bungalows can and do play with each other spontaneously although staff are always there or there abouts with an eye on them. A few of the staff checked in with me to make sure I was alright – I think they were surprised at how long I was playing football for ‘you’re working for your money today’ and ‘I bet you didn’t anticipate having to be this fit for fieldwork’. I think it was a pleasant surprise though and they did help me out – Blane joining in so I could have a bit of rest for example. I had the general impression that interaction between children from different bungalows was quite tightly controlled – and sometimes it is – but not all the time. Maybe the improving weather just provides more opportunities for outside play?

I didn’t get a chance to see Jonny as he wasn’t back by the time I left.