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| Fieldnote Note | 24 | Date | 30/8/21 |
| Locations | Bungalow 3, Campus, | Weather | Cloudy and cool |
| Child interactions | Red, Simone, James, Norman, [one of the children], Dom, Junior, Dennis, Daniel and Graham | Staff Interactions | Ronnie, Florence, Philippa, Sue, Monty, Mick, Blane, Pru |
| Times | 2pm-6pm | Total Time in field | 4 hours |

Stayed on campus after being up early in the morning for planned interviews during the early shift. I based myself in Bungalow 3 and, before the staff were dispatched to pick up the children, I was in the office where Florence and Pru were discussing Simone’s football practice tonight and who should take her. She hasn’t been for 3 weeks as there had been an incident where she started kicking the car and losing control when she was returning from a family contact with Pru, so she’s been on a car ban since then that is due to be lifted today. Pru was asking Florence if she should take her and noted that she wanted to and she ‘felt like it was the right thing’ because it would be her doing the run with her again since it was her and Simone the last time when there was an issue – that this would ‘get that over with’. She asked Florence ‘it feels like the right thing, but is it the right thing’? This was an interesting discussion where they were trying to work out together what would be the best approach and why (ad hoc reflection).

Shortly after this, I was sitting in the kitchen with Monty awaiting the children coming back from school – him at one end of the table and me at the other. It always feels like the deep breath before the plunge at this time of day. The quietness is broken by Simone, who arrives back first and immediately starts calling out for Monty. There had been word that she’d had a difficult day at school and, as she enters the kitchen calling out her requests, Monty says to her ‘were you a nugget today at school’ [both laughing, though Simone a little more coyly]. There was some physical interaction where she instigated some play fighting but then quickly retreated and headed down to do something in her room.

The other kids started arriving back and, before long, all of the children (Red, [one of the children], James, Norman and Simone) and staff (Monty, Sue, Pru and [new worker]) were in the kitchen. All of the children appeared to check-in with Monty as they arrived back. Snacks were organised and conversations were had about independent time, smart watches, things that happened at school, etc. [one of the children] was aligned with Sue, and Red ended up on Monty’s knee with some interaction between Red and Simone – winding each other up, play fighting, hair pulling etc – it looked like brother and sister behaviour to me and, when Monty challenged them on it, they both responded that they were ‘just being brother and sister’! I wonder if they see this or if it has been described as such by staff?

After about 20 minutes the crowd were dispersed, and Sue and [one of the children] came into the kitchen so that [one of the children] [data removed as consent could not be established]. Others started to move off to rooms/other parts of the bungalow/outside and I ended up in the living room ‘listening to everyday care’ – ‘you were really rude to Sue there, so you need to apologise’, ‘No, you’ll hit someone in the face with that, so stop it’. When things started to get quiet, I headed outside and found Pru supervising Simone and Junior who were arranging to go about campus on bikes. Ended up with me and Pru following them about campus and chatting with each other. Some of the children ended up playing at the bike ramp and so Pru and I sat at a bench nearby so she could supervise, and I could observe – again, Junior was making a play for Simone’s affections and was doing tasks that she set him lest he be ‘dumped’ by her! We were soon joined by Sue who was watching over [one of the children] who had also arrived on a bike.

Suddenly, Dom emerged from Bungalow 2 and threw himself into the paddling pool (despite the cool weather). He quickly had to go back inside under instruction from Ronnie because he was swearing loudly. 5 minutes later he was allowed back out and immediately threw himself in the paddling pool again, accompanied by loud swears and was immediately back inside for another ‘time out’. When he emerged for the third time (about 10 minutes later) he was able to contain his swearing and was out for the better part of an hour.

While this had been going on Sue had been discussing with Pru things that she was not in agreement with (e.g. smart watches) and then mentioned that they had ‘finally’ received the file for [one of the children] [data removed as consent could not be established]. I took the opportunity to ask her ‘what works in that case then, what will you do’. She said knowing the background was really helpful because they can then have an idea of triggers etc and work around them. We couldn’t really get into a more detailed discussion about this as various children were coming over at different points with more of them having suddenly thrown themselves into the paddling pool more or less fully clothed.

The play around the paddling pool, interspersed with bike adventures (involving Dennis, Norman, and Junior) but with also Graham joining later, continued for about an hour – thankfully the sun came out to heat me up a bit because it was pretty cold. Mick and Quin were also around at times and I noticed, at one point, Sue and Quin chatting to Dom at the bench for a while with snippets of conversation where there were commenting on how well he had been doing recently and not to slip back etc. He seemed to be sitting and listening and contributing to this discussion.

As most children and adults started to disperse, I headed back up to Bungalow 3 and ended up helping Pru out with the Tea (fajitas, chilli etc). Red was still out on independent time by the time tea was served but there were additional staff in: Pru, Sue, [new staff member] and Sally was in for a short shift as well. Children: James, Simone, [one of the children] and Norman. Things were served out and there was various chats and requests going on across the table in another familiar and familial dinner from my perspective. I took the opportunity to ask the children’s advice on how I should get their views on [org] – they gave me them right away ‘I like the bungalows, but I don’t like the school’ – ‘I don’t like the bungalows or the school’. No follow ups were responded to – this approach is not working, they don’t seem to like being asked these questions in this way and I wonder about asking them things when involved in activities with them instead. I had a catch up chat with Sally over the dishes and then said my goodbyes and headed off.