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| Fieldnote Note | 23 | Date | 16/8/21 |
| Locations | Bungalow 3, Campus, | Weather | Sunny/Cloudy and warm when the sun was out |
| Child interactions | Red, Simone, James, Norman, [one of the children], Eva, and Graham | Staff Interactions | Ronnie, Florence, Mave, Cheryl and Blane |
| Times | 11am – 4pm | Total Time in field | 5 hours |

Arrived on campus and ran into Ronnie coming out of Bungalow 1. We hadn’t seen each other for a while as our respective time off had been consecutive. He was warm and friendly and was telling me about the fruit he is growing in the garden. After our chat, I made my way up to bungalow 3 where Florence was standing outside the front with Red chatting (I later found out that he was outside with her in order to calm down after having ‘kicked off’ and hit Blane). I chatted briefly to the two of them before heading in.

Inside I found Norman in the hall with his bike. He showed me how his brakes weren’t working properly on it because the tension was out of the brake wire. After a short discussion and analysis between us, I suggested there may be a suitable wee spanner inside a puncture repair kit that would allow him to tighten this and he promptly got Mave to retrieve his puncture repair kit from the office, which had to be returned when he was finished (is this because of glue, wee tools/sharps etc. perhaps?).

Mave and Blane were in the lounge with James and Simone watching music videos and talking about the immanent purchases of clothes etc for school starting back this Wednesday. In the kitchen, Cheryl was playing with [one of the children] at playdoh, and I joined in at [one of the children]’s invitation. We were talking about the different shapes and colours and [one of the children] was requesting particular songs to be played on Cheryl’s phone, singing part of the lyrics with me thinking it was a song other than the one she wanted, much to her consternation. I heard Norman shouting on me and went out to the hall and assisted him in fixing his brakes, which took a few attempts and a couple of sore fingers but was, ultimately, a successful piece of teamwork.

Back in the lounge all of the children ([one of the children], Red, James, Simone, and Norman) and staff (Florence, Mave, Blane and Cheryl) gathered and there was a rather frantic 40 minutes or so where the children attempted to get the attention of staff and especially that of Florence, who was in a position to make decisions about the budgets for clothes shopping. Between all of the different conversations, raised voices, and music videos, I found myself struggling to pick out much of any particular conversation. However, eventually it was decided that Blane would take Red out to get a haircut and then for some clothes shopping (this seemed to be desirable because it allowed the opportunity for some reparation after the issues this morning, however, was a bit touch and go at times as Red was starting to get quite frustrated at times). There were various tos and fros where some children were refusing to go out with others (e.g. James didn’t want to go with Blane and Red, [one of the children] didn’t want James to come with her and Cheryl etc.). In amongst this, Cheryl made roasted cheese and a couple of other things for various lunches, and I ended up going into the kitchen to eat my lunch with Blane and Red and was glad to be out of the lounge for a minute as I felt a little bit overwhelmed by it all (what’s it like for staff and for children in terms of vying for attention?).

After lunch, I was in the lounge with James as he put on different music videos and leaped about from the sofa to the bean bags etc, showing me the various tricks he could do. He and [one of the children] were heading out with Cheryl after all and Red had already left with Red. [one of the children] was being resistant to getting changed and Cheryl was quite funny with them and insisted they change out of their stained and battered top as she was not taking them out ‘looking like a tramp’. They eventually got themself ready and those three headed off. Norman wasn’t around and it turned out he was out with another specialist worker (referred to as his carer when one of the children asked where he was, but I think it was the psychologist).

This meant it was Mave and Simone who were left in and they were doing sensory play in the kitchen – home made playdoh and gloop (cornflour mixed with various amounts of water) – and I joined in at the invitation. We discussed the various textures and which ones we liked etc. Simone ate some of it, much to Mave and my disgust. Eva arrived in with a new worker (still doing shadow shifts – need to check out consent) and joined in the sensory play. The children mentioned that their teacher (Tanya) was leaving, and Eva in particular seemed quite aggrieved by this. Simone mentioned that three people were leaving but we never got round to her telling me who was leaving and what she thought about it. It seemed she got some cash from someone and bought some Pepsi and had a bottle left – she told Eva she only had one left when Eva asked for one but got a glass and gave her a drink of it just the same.

Simone asked if I would play football with her and, after we got permission from Mave, we headed round the back of the bungalow where the goals were set up. We had a good game over the course of about 30 minutes or so and I managed to talk to her about the fact that she has been picking at a spot/cut on her chin – she got totally into that during the game. I told her how I can be really ‘picky’ with cuts and things as well and could empathise with why she does it etc and showed her a cut on my leg that I had been scratching. Shortly after this she had an itchy arm and I thought she’d maybe stung it with nettles retrieving the ball but she said it was allergies, which got us talking about the antihistamines we take and she said ‘we could be twins – we like football, we pick scabs, and we get hayfever – maybe we had the same mum and we didn’t know it’, which I thought was funny and sweet. We got ice poles passed to us out of the window by Mave, which was great because it was really hot in the sun. I noticed how sweet Simone can be when she is in adult company, something a couple of the staff had mentioned to me when she hadn’t been quite so sweet at other times. Eventually, we were too hot and sweaty and went in. I won this time by one goal and Simone said ‘I bet you were surprised that a girl got 9 goals past you’ and I assured her that I wasn’t at all surprised that she got 9 goals past me given how good she was and then talked about the women’s world cup and the women’s football at the Olympics etc.

Back inside, Eva was still playing with the sensory playdoh and then Red and Norman had both arrived back about the same time. Red seemed like he had energy to burn, initially out playing football with Simone and Blane out the back, then back in wandering about the bungalow seeming a bit on edge. Mave asked him to stop ‘showing off’ (he was bouncing on a chair shouting swear words) and tell her what was going on with him and he said he was bored. He was going to watch TV but then disappeared followed by Mave. It ended up just me and Eva and the new worker sitting in the kitchen. I was able to tell the new worker a bit about the research. On hearing me talk about trying to understand what the everyday is like in residential, Eva said ‘it’s rubbish’ and in response to my follow up questions she detailed the ‘unfairness’ of it and felt that she got into trouble when others did not specifying Mick by his surname as someone she felt gave her into more bother than the others. We eventually, and with some resistance, got Eva to agree to stop playing with the gloop so we could tidy up. After they headed back to Bungalow 2, it seemed that I was alone in Bungalow 3 so I got my stuff from the office as it was about time for me to head off.

I met Red, Norman and Simone coming up followed by Mave and Blane from near Bungalow 1. Simone asked if I was leaving, and I said I would be back next week. I was really surprised and pleased that she gave me a hug at this as she is very wary of new workers and doesn’t give these out as easily as some of the other children. I said my goodbyes to Mave and Blane and advised I’d be back next week.