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| Fieldnote Note | 22 | Date | 10/8/21 |
| Locations | Bungalow 3, Campus, Bungalow 2, outing | Weather | Sunny/Cloudy and warm when the sun was out |
| Child interactions | Simone, Dom, Junior, James, [one of the children], Norman, [one of the children], Eva, Daniel, Dennis and Graham | Staff Interactions | Duncan, Donald, Monty, Bob, Peter, Mick, Katya, Karly, Helen |
| Times | 11am – 5pm | Total Time in field | 6 hours |

Arrived on to a Sunny campus today and headed into Bungalow 1 to see if I could see Thelma as she said she’d let me have a copy of the upcoming rota for when the children go back to school so that I can start to plan one-to-one interviews with staff on the early shift. Duncan was in the lounge with Graham who was watching a YouTube video of a Minecraft game and who quickly came to give me a hug. As I was having some small talk with those two, Dennis and Daniel came out of the playroom with Barbara to say hello. Thelma was away but Donald was in the office, so I went down there and chatted to him while he gave me details of the early shifts for the two weeks after the schools go back (next Wednesday).

After this, I headed up to Bungalow 3 and found Monty in the office. I had an interesting conversation with him about Norman’s issue with defecating in his room at times and what that might be about. He seemed interested to know if I had any ‘theories’ about it and how to respond to it and I got the impression that he is quite worried about it despite having discussed the issue with the clinical psychologist etc. Over the course of our conversation, I was able to reflect back to him how I had noted that Norman seemed very comfortable with him in terms of physical contact etc, and I also talked about how I had been interested in Norman’s body language during the film yesterday. Monty seemed to appreciate this conversation and noted that sometimes ‘when you’re in the middle of it’ you don’t get a chance to notice what’s going on. This may be an interesting aspect to follow up – the opportunities for staff to reflect *with* each other about things that they notice.

It was just Simone in the bungalow at this point and she was watching a film in the living room. Some banter between Monty and her – he deals very well with the swearing and fingers that she seems to put in his direction, typically using a lot of humour and never being angry or upset. For example: ‘Do you need a wee hanky for your tears watching that film Simone?’ [Simone gives him the middle finger], ‘just one hanky then?’ [two middle fingers] ‘two, two hankies it is then’. Interestingly, she was directing this and then some rapid swearing at him over the course of the next 20 minutes in the kitchen as he was trying to figure out what to do with the large amount of food being delivered by Dom (Fair-share had arrived and was deposited in Bungalow 1) but, at the same time, she was clearly seeking physical contact/proximity and engagement with him, moving from the lounge into the kitchen to follow him. There were lots of laughs during this interaction as well and it certainly seemed like the swearing was a tried and tested method of drawing Monty into interaction with her. I got a reasonable hug (i.e. not a headlock) from Dom during one of his deliveries and then Bob arrived in as well.

Simone asked if I would play football with her outside, which was agreed with Monty. However, when she went to Bungalow 2 to get her shoes (which had been left there last night because she had to be carried back to Bungalow 3) and I went to look for a ball, I got distracted by Karly calling me from the office window in Bungalow 2. She advised that she had taken a job in England and would, therefore, be finishing up this week in terms of her placement and not returning for sessional as planned. We wished each other well for the future and, as I headed back to Bungalow 3 to find Simone, she came out and had changed her mind and wanted to play on the skate ramp instead. This had to be agreed by Monty, which it was and so we headed over to it. Junior and [one of the children] (not yet a resident but may become one) were playing on it, supervised by Mick, and Simone joined them.

It was an interesting dynamic between the three with Junior insisting that Simone was his girlfriend (Junior is 8 and Simone is 10) [data removed as consent could not be established]. Different challenges were set, and scores were kept! Mick and I sat and chatted at one of the benches while they played and Bob joined us for a little while (he wasn’t on shift today, just in to see Donald about something). Mick was asking me about the project, how it was going, when it would end etc. I talked with him about the timings and about some of my thoughts on my experiences – he seemed really enthused when I was talking about joy and how my game of ‘cops and robbers’ with Junior and Brian had got me really thinking about this aspect of the work. Later, he was really joining in with the play (he’s a playful guy anyway but I did wonder again about getting the opportunity to reflect on the good bits in this job).

Lunch was being dished out in Bungalow 2 and Simone asked if she could join there so I went and got my bag (with my lunch in it) from Bungalow 3 and let Monty know what was happening. None of the children were eating the pizza prepared by Katya and some requested some toast instead – she accommodated each of them but did make a point about their general fussiness in terms of eating. Eva, Dom, Simone, Junior, [one of the children] and [one of the children] were at the table along with me and Katya. Most of the children headed out with Mick shortly after eating and I chatted briefly with Katya. Monty arrived in looking for Simone and advising that she is supposed to be on a ‘boring day’ today because of her behaviour yesterday evening.

After lunch, I found Simone, Junior and [one of the children] in the trampoline at the front of Bungalow 1 with Mick supervising and [one of the children] watching and waiting on their turn (only three allowed in the trampoline at one time). We were shortly joined by Katya and sat in this little sun trap for the better part of an hour. During this time, Dom joined the group, Duncan came out of Bungalow 1, we had visits from Graham, there were time-outs given when the play fighting on the trampoline was getting out of hand, one on/one out every 5 minutes was established so that everyone could get a turn, [one of the children] flounced off, I chatted with staff and children who were waiting their turn – all and all, it was a good time. At one point, Mick got on with Dom (Dom is probably too big to play gently with the others so Mick can give him a rougher game, which he liked) but all the children wanted on, to get their chance to ‘take down’ Mick. It was really fun game and all involved were laughing and screaming at the frolics. Katya was concerned, she didn’t think there should be three on at one time and she felt things could probably get out of hand but Mick kept quite good control of the situation. It was interesting in terms of her worry about the trampoline breaking or children being seriously hurt and how it would be explained as, on the other hand, when there was some beef between the children, she intimated that she felt staff got involved to resolve things too quickly at times and not allowing the children to learn the consequences of behaving in certain ways towards other children.

After about an hour, Monty arrived down and had a conversation with Simone about her ‘boring day’. Although she resisted and went and sulked over by the far side of the trampoline, Monty thought that she would make her way back to Bungalow 3 in a few minutes. Before that could happen, Junior and [one of the children] got into a fight on the trampoline and Mick had to get on and split them up. Junior was taken back to Bungalow 2 with Monty while Mick took [one of the children]. This really killed the buzz, Dom was already away and so Simone was really only left with the option of heading back to the bungalow.

Back in Bungalow three, Mave, Mary and a new member of staff were in the lounge with [one of the children], Norman, Simone and James and there was a film on (Beethoven). It appeared that plans had to be made in terms of splitting the children up into different groups/pairings (Red would be arriving back with Peter soon). Mave told the children that the staff needed 5 minutes to be able to discuss and make plans, but the children were resistant to going to their rooms and suggested they be left alone in the living room while this happened. Mave was funny with them saying that she had an idea where that would end up in terms of behaviour, quickly demonstrated by Simone and Norman. Eventually, the staff (and I) stood in the kitchen with the door open. Mave stood near the door to keep an eye on the children and talked quietly to Mary about the proposed plans. The sound of the TV went off as the children attempted to eavesdrop on the conversation.

Mave was staying in with Simone (who was having a boring day). I’m not sure where the others were going but I agreed to go with Mary, who was taking Norman and [one of the children] to the skate park. I followed in my car as I would leave directly from there rather than coming back.

At the park, Mary mentioned how well behaved the two were in the car. Norman got to the skate park and quickly got involved with some other boys who were playing there. After scooting for a bit, [one of the children] asked to go to the play park which was about 100 metres from the skate park and there is a line of sight. Mary noted that Norman would be fine here himself and that [one of the children] need closer supervision – and she proved to be right as [one of the children] has a tendency to just head off to the toilet or something without letting anyone know. [one of the children] was initially asking me and Mary to play on the chutes etc. with them but we encouraged them to go themself and they ended up playing away with a range of other children. Mary and I discussed our own playfulness and the need to hold back sometimes because, if either of us had played with them, [one of the children] would have missed out on these experiences. She mentioned the fact that she sometimes feels like staff are ‘right on top’ of these children and she looks at other children of the same age playing without the same level of adult supervision etc. I mentioned how I had thought about that in relation to Brian when he took me to the gang hut. Mary talked about the responsibility of the job when she doesn’t necessarily feel like a responsible adult herself. She loves the job and really enjoys it.

After about 40 minutes or so, we head back over to the skate park albeit with a reluctant and truculent [one of the children].

At the skate park, Norman was engaging with a few different boys, and they were swapping scooters for bikes etc. for shots on each. After about 5 minutes, Mary called on him to give him a 5-minute warning for leaving. I got the impression that he was a bit annoyed at having his street cred tarnished by this (he’s 11) although he did come over when eventually called, although made sure to put distance between himself and Mary, [one of the children] and me as he got out in front and exited the park. I helped him get his bike etc in the car and said my goodbyes to everyone and that I would see them next week.