



# Appletree House Child Care & Education Centre Testimonials

## **Staff Member (1):**

My name is Antonyta Joseph. I have been with Communities@Work for more than five years. I first started working at Taylor Child Care and Education Centre as a Level 2 childcare worker. After approximately 18 months, I had the opportunity to move to Appletree House as a Level 3 childcare worker in the Toddler Room. While I was working, the management and team members encouraged me to do the Diploma in Children's Services. Studying part-time was extremely challenging with a full-time job, however, with the excellent working environment and team support, I was able to finish my Diploma in two and a half years. Now I am working as a Level 4 in the Infant's Room. The encouragement and support I receive from Communities@Work is enormous and I am very happy to be part of the Communities@Work team.

***Antonyta Joseph (April 2009)***

## **Staff Member (2):**

I began relief work for Communities@Work in late 2000. Back then the organisation was called Tuggeranong Community Services. Without delay I was kept busy working at the various child care centres connected to C@W, and slowly my confidence as a childcare worker grew.

It was during those earlier years that I became acquainted with Willi Renet, who was the preschool teacher at Richardson Early Childhood Centre. I enjoyed her sense of humour and admired her experience in the industry, and so when she later took on the position of Manager for Appletree House I was delighted to be one of the relief staff members she called upon for regular work.

As a relief staff member, my skills with the guitar have proved to be one of my most valuable assets, and daily I am greeted by children with 'did you bring your guitar'? I joke with them telling them that my guitar case is really my lunch box, or that I ate my guitar for breakfast (on those days when I have not brought it to work).

I have had positive experiences at many of the C@W centres, yet I have long considered Appletree House my favourite. The reasons for my fondness are many. Its architectural layout, acoustics and colour scheme are gentle on the senses, but more importantly the children and the staff members there are a great bunch of people and the atmosphere they create collectively is optimistic. My mother, who is an architect, says that a well designed building begets a calm environment and I believe that I see it in action at Appletree House.

In 2008 Willi honoured me by nominating me for the ACT Child Carer of the Year award. I was touched by her decision to nominate me as it demonstrated the high degree of trust she holds for me. Experiences such as these have helped to make me feel that I am a valued member of the program support team of Communities@Work.

***James Phillips (November 2009)***

It's about you. Always!

## Children:

"At Appletree, I like to go outside. I like the bikes and the slippery dip. My friends are Anita, Maia and Tiana. I love drawing rainbows with red, yellow, green, purple, pink and blue and orange. Olga and Sue teach me to read books. I can write my name and my cousin's name".

*(Georja – 5 years)*

## Family (1): Georja's Journey

Georja started at Appletree House Child Care and Education Centre when she was 18 months old. Georja has recently turned 5 and is in her final year at child care. From the beginning, she was happy to be going and loved learning something new each week.

As Georja moved from the Baby's Room to the Toddler's Room and into the Pre-school Room, she formed a special relationship with each of her carers. Even now, as she enters the Centre each morning, walking down the corridor, looking into each room as we pass, she says 'Good Morning' to the staff and children in the rooms.

The staff at Appletree House have played a very big part in Georja's life, as they do in so many other children's. They have helped to nurture and encourage her to grow into the little pre-schooler that she is now. As Georja prepares to start her next Journey into primary school, we know that the journey that she has made and the friendships she has developed will never be forgotten.

**Alicia Muirhead (Parent)**

**April 2009**

## Family (2): Nissi's Journey

I must first of all say I am ever so grateful for the consistently great care given to Nissi by the staff at Appletree House Child Care and Education Centre (especially in the Infants Room).

Nissi started attending Appletree at 20 weeks of age and today she is 19 months. In the beginning I wondered whether this was the right decision, however with an imperative need to return to work I decided to give this a try. To my joy, happiness and peace of mind, Nissi adapted very well. She not only continues to thrive in her physical well being but also in her ability to learn and socialize with her peers.



At all times, even when I dropped in unannounced, I found her happy and well cared for. The staff in the Infants Room not only offer this great care and time with their utmost dedication but also endeavor to engage parents in a process of continuous feedback and welcome any suggestions given. The parents of the other children are always pleasant to talk to, even when our interactions are very brief. This undoubtedly is an excellent environment for a child to grow in and be cared for! I personally cannot ask for more.

Thank you to all the staff at Appletree and keep up the great work!

**Sandra (Nissi's mother)**

**August 2009**

### Family (3):



My daughter Charli has been attending Appletree House for the last two years and absolutely loves it. She has made lots of friends (both children and staff) and is a very happy and confident little girl. It's wonderful to be able to drop her off in the morning with a wave and a kiss goodbye and have her happily run off to play. It makes going to work a lot easier for me. My only problem is trying to get her to leave when I come to pick her up in the afternoon!

Charli is expanding her food experiences now that the Centre is providing lunch. It's great to not have to worry about what to pack for lunch but still be secure in the knowledge that my child is being provided with healthy food choices. Charli is visiting the pre-school room occasionally to help her ease into moving there permanently sometime in the New Year. I think this transition period will really help Charli to manage this change with as little upset as possible.

I have the highest confidence in all the staff at Appletree House. They are a wonderful group of people and I'm very pleased to have found such a caring and nurturing environment for Charli.

**Colette Puniard (Charli's mother)**

**November 2009**

### Family (4):

#### Jessica's time at Appletree House

From the first day Jessica (10 month's old) spent time at Appletree House, she enjoyed her stay, building close relationships with the children and carers. Once she could talk, she would tell me all the names (from the photos on the walls) of the faces of everyone at Appletree House. She would also come home happy, singing little tunes (I was not allowed to sing along).



Jessica enjoys her time at Appletree House and eats well. When the cooked meals were introduced for lunch, I wondered how she would go with eating vegetables (as all parents know, this is not an easy task to achieve). Now she loves her meals, including a range of vegetables and usually has second or third helpings. It has also been great to have breakfast with her and others at Appletree House from time to time.

Appletree House has provided great support and development to Jessica. I feel comfortable and thankful that she enjoys her stay at Appletree and is well behaved.

There are many times that she doesn't want to leave because she is having so much fun!

Thank you all those at Appletree House who have provided guidance and support to Jessica over the 3 years she has been there.

**Jessica's Mum (Gaylene)**

**August 2010**

## Family (5):

We just wanted to take the opportunity to express our thanks for the great care Appletree has continually provided to our daughter Elena. In particular, the flexibility Appletree has provided our family in the recent months due to the arrival of a sister for Elena - baby Adele.



One of our biggest concerns was the change in Elena's environment and we appreciated the attitude by all staff in the understanding of Elena's needs and personality changes.

Since day one Elena has felt comfortable at Appletree, reflected by lack of interest in saying good-bye when we leave after dropping her off in the mornings. In truth it was much harder for us as parents to come to terms with leaving Elena behind. Appletree staff quickly picked up on our separation anxiety so we were both made posters with photos of Elena's first day. These posters demonstrated how much fun Elena had despite us not being around (although sad, this was comforting).

Elena has been at Appletree for over a year now and has clearly bonded with all staff and has made many friends that she loves to play with. Many other examples were captured in photos throughout the year that reflected the fun activities, such as slippery slides and tunnels, educational play time, such as painting and singing or day to day activities (that we take for granted) such as meal or quiet time.

Elena loves being at Appletree, which puts our mind at ease while we were at work. This made it a simple decision to enroll our latest addition Adele into Appletree. We believe that Appletree has contributed greatly to Elena's charismatic personality and we look forward to both our girls developing further in this friendly and caring environment.

**Dave & Belinda Fitzgerald**

**August 2010**

It's  
about  
you.  
Always!