



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

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