



At the Lodge with Skyler

BY: Jody Merrick





Skyler, it seems that one of your favourite things is when we go to visit at Ottewell Lodge. When it's a Lodge day, you always ask to go see the birds. They seem important to you.



We have found a smiley face on our walk to the Lodge and now we look for it along the way. You like to stand on it when we find it.



You are always curious about who might come along with us to the Lodge each time. Of course, you are so helpful to show new friends just what to see and do.



We always bring grapes to share when we go to the Lodge. You have come to expect them, "I have grapes?". You seem to really like grapes. I always think you are going to burst with how many you eat!



Something else that you like to do is pretend to play the piano. You sang “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star” while you tapped the piano keys. Everybody clapped when you finished. You sang more songs when you realized everybody was singing along with you.



You really like to visit the Lodge, Skyler.

What this means...

We know that consistent and familiar relationships and routines are important to Skyler's development and learning. This familiarity contributes to his sense of security and attachment, which is his emotional well-being, positive self-identity, and a sense of belonging. These are a few of the holistic developmental goals described in the Alberta Curriculum Framework for Early Learning that our visits to the Lodge meet:

When Skyler talks about the familiar things he expects to see and do (grapes, birds, piano), participates/initiates singing, plays the piano, shows others around, and interacts with senior residents at the Lodge, he demonstrates/develops his

- growing sense of self in his self-confidence and initiative
- sense of other in caring for others
- sense of other in experiencing trust and compassion with children and adults
- sense of place through becoming familiar with sights, sounds, rhythms, and routines of the Lodge
- sense of place through generating a shared repertoire of narratives and memories

What's next...

Many have noticed that Skyler seems to have an interest in music and singing, particularly the piano. Bringing musical instruments into the playroom as well as making musical instruments can help support him further. Perhaps inviting Skyler to make a shaker of his own.