

A day with the children

Flossie Adoyo describes one of her frequent visits to the children
at the “Julius and Dora Children’s Home”



A day with the children

'Mummy, mummy, mummy you have come!!'

As I arrive at the children’s home, they all rush out shouting and talking at the top of their voices; each wanting to be heard and listened to.

				
'Moses - Mummy, what have you brought for me'	Baraka - 'Mummy come and see my cow.	Tumaini - 'Mummy, your car is going without you	Riziki- Mummy, Baraka beat me	Zubeda - look at my leg. I fell down and it hurts'

Zawadi



Mummy you are smart.

Imani



Aunt gave us very little porridge

Lulu



•Mummy, can you stay here with us. you can sleep with me on my bed. I do not wet my bed

Zubira



I sit down (outside on a stone in the compound) and try to listen to all their stories and reassure those who need assurance.

They calm down and I give them each an orange that I have brought for them and everybody is happy. Time moves fast and soon it is ten o'clock, time for them to have their porridge. They all sit down on the mat outside for the porridge made from millet, sorghum and amaranth with some milk and a little sugar which they love.



The children having their porridge



Time for lunch



Lulu and Joyce on the swing



All the children together with Jackie

We play some games, running around the house and playing on the swings. All this takes some time and soon it is lunch time. They have their lunch - everybody feeds themselves and there is no playing around with food. Today they have their lunch outside-seated on a mat. The lunch is rice and beans which they enjoy.

After lunch, it is time to have a nap. They reluctantly go to their beds after extracting a promise from me that I will not go away while they sleep. I sit down to have my lunch and read a newspaper while I have the time to myself.

3.30pm-time to get up. They have a snack –this time they have a mango each and then the books come out. They are all very excited and each one wants to show me what they can do-which is not very much but as far as they are concerned, they consider they can all read very well, write and color pictures and do everything else! This includes Zubeda and Maryana who have not even started going for baby school.

I give everybody work to do; write the alphabet, pictures to color and some simple arithmetic to do. For a few minutes, very few minutes, there is some order and quietness and then all of a sudden they have finished and they all want me to look at their work at the same time.

Time for some work



Joyce (in green) joins Riziki in a dance to celebrate her good work

Riziki and Daniel have done the best drawings and also alphabets. Baraka has just been playing around with his pencil and has not done much as he believes that he knows everything and Moses' coloring is very untidy.

I congratulate them all for their effort and give small presents to the best-Riziki and Daniel for the best coloring and Riziki, Daniel and Tumaini for the best alphabets and Lulu for getting all her sums right.



Zubeda



Zubira

Zubeda and Zubira think that they too should get a present. I get out their favorite toys and give them to play with and they are happy.

5.30pm- Time for dinner - they are having ugali, vegetables and meat. After dinner, I want to leave and go to my own house nearby in Kakamega, but Tumaini reminds me that we have not prayed (this is just a tactic to make sure I do not go away immediately!). I sit back and they clean up, change for bed and sit down to listen to a Bible story, sing (they have learnt a new song in Sunday school – “Jesus’ love is very very wonderful.....”) and then we pray.

7.30pm They take their milk and then I put them to bed before going away to my house exhausted but happy.

Written in March 2013