**MILINGIMBI PRESCHOOL**

**SHOWCASING QUALITY EDUCATION AND CARE PRACTICES IN THE TERRITORY**

**ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES IN A REMOTE CONTEXT**

**Consider the questions following the video to inform critical reflection on practices at your service.**

Gayle Chamberlain Hi, I am Gayle Chamberlain, I’m the preschool teacher here at Yurrwi and I’ve been a community since January 2017 and I hope to be here for a few more years to support Guminda my assistant teacher through her studies and to eventually help her to become the preschool teacher here.

Hazel Guminda Hello, my name is Hazel Guminda, I live here in Yurrwi Island, now I am starting working here in preschool since last year and 2016 and I am studying in Certificate III in Early Childhood Education, when I will finish my Certificate III I would like to become Milingimbi Preschool Teacher.

Gayle Chamberlain Yurrwi preschool is a bilingual, where part of a bilingual school and where on a remote island in East Arnhem Land. We have several community organizations that we access and it’s an ongoing building relationship. So at the moment we have connections with the art center, we have every Monday joined up with the Rangers so we have calling preschool children mini rangers. Wednesdays we have Sport and Rec come and do some physical activities with the children. We have also connected with the Miwatj clinic where Cathy the child health nurse visits everyone on Thursday mornings and she liaises with the Mum’s and the children talking about health care. We have also made connections with the library, so the library within the school is actually run, even though the library is within the school its not actually the school’s library, it’s the community library so we visit there every Wednesday and Rebecca who runs the library she reads the djamakuli story and then does some activities with them and then we change our books over and come back.

They really enjoy the Rangers because of the, it’s in Yolngu Matha their home language and they enjoy learning about cultural activities that’s more meaningful to them about hunting and big barus/crocodiles, but then when they go to the play group they enjoy just being little children. They love the stories so when we go to the library they really enjoy their Mum’s as well as Rebecca reading the stories, some of that part in English and some of that is part in Yolnga Matha. What we do learn out there we do try to bring back into the preschool by trying to get those real life activities within or resources materials within the preschool so that’s why the shop is set up exactly like the shop down at the general store and the clinic that there so used to constantly going to the clinic. We’ve always tried to explain to the parents we do what we do because of this or because of that or because the regulations, so were always trying to explain to them in a balanda way to suit to come across in a Yolnga Matha way, although the two don’t quiet always meet we try to explain to them why and how best it is close to their culture as well. But we also listen to them and how they do things and we’ve adapted things within preschool to help, to do some things their way as well.

Hazel Guminda Because some of the mother wants the children to go out to learn the culture, that what mothers ask me to do. First they gunna learn the culture so they know who they are.

Gayle Chamberlain So when we go out into the community their happy and content that they see that were valuing their culture and not just teaching in a balanda way, they appreciate and respect that we can bring it all together. We also have to be very careful that some of the cultural activities may just be for women or girls and some of its just for boys, whereas in preschool we have to respect and try and find that cultural activity that both can learn together, a lot of it’s about the wellbeing of the children and when we go out in community the community get excited and they come out of their work place and wave, if their driving past their honking the horn, calling out because their excited to see the djamakuli out in the community learning. Making that connection

**Questions:**

**How is the service’s connection with the local community supporting children’s learning and wellbeing??**

**Can you see the lives and culture of the families reflected in the service? How?**

**Is there room for you to search for further connections in you service’s community?**