

The Day Care. By Tara

As you enter the daycare of Henderson Bay High School, on an early October morning, caution weighs heavy on your shoulders.

I've worked here for nearly a year, every day, of every week. I've watched all these little ones grow and learn so much. They've made friends and bonds with the teachers. In the early morning they hate to come, but yet they always hate to leave when the day is done. When you look around and see all these hyper, self-centered toddlers, playing Dungeons and Dragons and dress up, that just happen to be a third of your size. Some are shy, and won't acknowledge you. While others are screaming at you to come play with them, then you have the odd one or two that just want to be held. The older boys are playing with the Legos on the table as I walk past them heading to the waddler room. As I walk up to the door, I peer over and see Delany, a chubby one year old, with bright blue eyes and a goofy smile she's wearing a pink shirt, and navy blue legging with pink flowers on. As always, as soon as she sees me, she drops whatever she's doing, and runs towards me.

I pick her up and hold her, as she plays with my scarf. Not long after that, Jade comes over she's a feisty little two year old with a whole lot of sass. She demands to be picked up, after I explain that she can wait, I'm holding Delany. She begins to whine but gets distracted by necklace and start to play with it, telling me that she wants it. After, I take my necklace off, and put it on the upper shelf out of her reach. She sees Daniel, a quiet two year old, playing with the zoo animals, and she decides to join him instead.

As I look around the room, I see Niall repeatedly going up and down the stairs for no other reason than entertainment. To the left of him is a board covered with marshmallow mummies and painted ghosts, all of which the kids have made at the end of the day to pass time waiting on their parents to pick them up or just for the fun of it. A loud whine catches my attention it's Aspen- the tiniest girl in the room, yet still happens to be the loudest. She's wanting to color, as always, but won't take no for an answer, even after being explained that breakfast is going to be ready soon. Jett's across the room from her, wearing his favorite Beatles t-shirt and blue jeans he's playing with a worn out, dingy white laundry basket. I hear Aspen's screech again, as I look over at her, I see her yanking at the back of the tiny wooden chair that Gwen, her best friend is sat in. Yet Gwen isn't budging, so Aspen just screams louder and louder until Jasmine, a pretty, blonde, country girl, who's one of the lead teachers at the daycare steps in and separates them. Afterwards, Jasmine turns away and walks toward the radio on which she has her country music playing.

But Aspen is still yelling at Gwen "No, no, Gwen", then pauses for a second, and says "Mine" as she stares Gwen down.

But Gwen smoothly sits down, and firmly says, "No".

Aspen starts yelling out, "Jasmine, no no Gwen!"

But Gwen still sitting in the chair, blankly stares at Aspen, and says "go away!".

After Aspen has finished muttering to herself, she gives up and walks away.

I was sat on the floor, surrounded by all sorts of toys, stuffed animals, zoo animals, dinosaurs, and the most dangerous of all, legos. To my left is Saddler he's playing with Daniel and his dinosaurs. To my right is Delany, walking over with her silly smile. She plops down in my lap, and just sits there as usual. After a while, she notices me taking down notes of the room, and tries to take my pen to draw with it. I don't let her have it completely but I let her doodle with it both of our hands on the pen, so she doesn't throw it at someone. Soon after, she gets bored of doodling and just sits there.

The staff begins to clean up, meaning that breakfast is about to be served. The tired toddlers just ignore the telling of the teachers to clean up they either keep on playing, waiting for the teacher to do it for them, or just sit there. But soon enough breakfast was ready, and the tiny bright blue chairs were all set around the table, and so the toddlers crawl into them, waiting on their food, hoping to fill their hungry bellies.