



Tuesday, 5 August 2008

Dear Katrina,

Thankyou for sending the completed enrolment form for Georgia. Unfortunately, at this time, we do not feel that our Service can accommodate Georgia's needs. Our concerns are:

1. The Centre will be having excursions at least 4 days a week during the vacation care period and we do not have access to transport that can accommodate a wheelchair.
2. We do not have any staff members trained to look after Georgia's specific needs.
3. Accommodating a change table and hoist will create safety issues. Whilst our staff toilet may fit a change table we will not have room for a hoist as well. We also have no safe storage area for a hoist.
4. Our Centre has no safe area for Georgia to roll around on the floor or have a sleep. We will need to accommodate up to 60 children in the Centre at the one time which means we are unable to close off areas to any children.
5. Although our Centre building is accessible by wheelchair, the school grounds and outside play areas are not. We would be unable to take Georgia out of the building for a walk or into the outside play area due to the steepness of the adjacent driveway and the steps.
6. The Centre is closed from the 24th December, 2008 and reopens Monday 5th January 2009.

Our Centre strives to keep all children safe and appropriately supervised. We feel we cannot guarantee that Georgia's needs will be met.

We are happy to arrange a meeting to discuss this with you & _____ at _____. Please phone _____

Kind regards

Katrina

From: Katrina
Sent: Tuesday, 5 August 2008 9:30 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: RE: Georgia

Thank you for your letter. I was very surprised to see that you had formed a conclusion about Georgia without the OT's assessment being conducted. I am very disappointed that you will not accept her particularly as, in my discussions with the Manager of the Centre, it had seemed the Centre was perfect for her and that, indeed, you already had a couple of children in wheelchairs who attended from time to time.

I am therefore a bit confused by some of the reasons you have given for refusing my daughter access to the Centre and wonder if you can explain? I set out your reasons for refusing her access below, with my queries:

1. The Centre will be having excursions at least 4 days a week during the vacation care period and we do not have access to transport that can accommodate a wheelchair.

told me that you have access to a bus that can accommodate a wheelchair and that, in fact, the Cerebral Palsy children who attend the Centre use that transport.

2. We do not have any staff members trained to look after Georgia's specific needs.

Staff can be trained for Georgia's needs – surely this is a requirement for any Centre since, otherwise, ISS funding would never be used for any child with special needs in any Centre. I understand that the ISS funding covers some additional training.

3. Accommodating a change table and hoist will create safety issues. Whilst our staff toilet may fit a change table we will not have room for a hoist as well. We also have no safe storage area for a hoist.

It has not been determined that a hoist is necessary. I understood that an OT would undertake an assessment to determine the equipment required. I would have thought that a change table would be more than adequate if it was of the kind that could move up and down electronically.

4. Our Centre has no safe area for Georgia to roll around on the floor or have a sleep. We will need to accommodate up to 60 children in the Centre at the one time which means we are unable to close off areas to any children.

Georgia does not need to lie down in an area separate from the other children. In fact, I would not wish her to be away from the other children – she likes the interaction and it is good for her. If I recall correctly, there is a smaller room in the Centre with a soft floor covering where she could roll around quite happily. I can understand your concern for safety if she is resting but, if that were to occur, she could rest in her wheelchair. We are currently in the process of applying for a wheelchair which reclines, for this very reason.

5. Although our Centre building is accessible by wheelchair, the school grounds and outside play areas are not. We would be unable to take Georgia out of the building for a walk or into the outside play area due to the steepness of the adjacent driveway and the steps.

How is this managed for the other children in wheelchairs who attend your Centre? I would like the OT to assess this issue. I cannot recall where the play area is in relation to the Centre.

6. The Centre is closed from the 24th December, 2008 and reopens Monday 5th January 2009.

Understood. This is the case for most vacation care centre. This is presumably not intended to be a reason for not accepting Georgia into the Centre.

I look forward to receiving your response and I do hope that is feeling a bit better now.

Katrina