

Summary, Week #24
Saturday, December 17 (Monday) ~ December 23, 2018 (Sunday)
The Week Before Christmas



Things are winding down for the Christmas holidays and we think Inaam and Ahmad are happy to stay home. Inaam is quite tired ~ not sure her heart is in the space where learning English is a priority. We mentioned going to the Zoo and/or the Museum over the holidays ~ Ahmad seemed keen, but not Inaam.

On Tuesday, Ahmad told Grace that they had a friend visiting and there would no English lesson, so Rich and Grace didn't go.

Jana's First Haircut!

On Wednesday, Marlene reviewed colours and numbers with Inaam which they had done a few weeks ago. Inaam did very well with these. Ahmad was sitting nearby and seemed interested so he did the same thing. Marlene went over some vocabulary she had prepared using pictures of common items she had cut out from flyers and magazines with the words written on them trying to get her to sound out the words. Ahmad then pulled out a binder of his from school. He said the teacher told him he could take it home as he has finished the basic level and will be starting Level 1 in January. So, a notebook in the binder had a page for each letter of the alphabet and on several of the pages he had pasted pictures beginning with that letter, e.g. On the "M" page he had a picture of a mechanic and a microwave. We have been doing very similar things with Inaam--days of the week, months of the year, yesterday, today and tomorrow.

On Thursday, Helen and Inaam looked through the Oxford Dictionary together, and settled on the first chapter....Meeting and Greeting.....Inaam was very tired, so we did not spend much time on this, but it was a good opportunity to get away from the stock reply to the question "How are you?" "Fine" being the stock reply. In the chapter on birds, she noticed a photo of a beautiful peacock and showed me a video she had taken of an albino peacock she had taken in Beirut. We enjoyed watching it together! We didn't go over the postal code and address.

Nerges at play!



Helen had brought a small treat (dates and nuts round) from El Safadi to share, and she helped Inaam to get tea and serve it (all the while talking so Inaam would be listening to the sounds and cadence of the English language); Nerges put the wrapper in the garbage which was full to overflowing. Ahmad emptied the garbage, double bagging it....he was going to throw the whole thing in the bin outside, loose garbage scraps all over.

The rest of our time together was spent in settling Chris down, the next door neighbour, as she was quite annoyed that Helen had parked in #112 parking lot at the back of the house. She indicated that Helen was only one of several people who had parked in her spot; she pointed out that we could park in #110 and #111. She said that the white van parked in #111 belongs to Ahmad's "friend". Chris further said that the furniture left outside was an invitation to mice and that "they" needed to get rid of it; also that there is a lot of banging on the wall between the two townhouses which disturbs her sleep. She is a shift worker. Ahmad said okay he would move the stuff.

Going with the flow and unexpected circumstances could be the summary of Inaam's English lessons.

The red plastic cart donated by Barb and Jack is safely in the basement. Both parents seem happy to have received it, and will value and take care of it. Ahmad told us they had taken the girls riding along in the cart to Jamila's to visit, big smile on his face.

The week ended with a wonderful Open House celebration at the Gentile home, complete with our two interpreters and many CRCSA members and their significant others all chatting together in the kitchen and the livingroom, and/or playing games. We presented the special Christmas gift of the sleigh with both wheels and sliders (for use in summer and winter, to maximize flexibility) to Ahmad just before it was time to leave. We took a few photos for those not able to be present. The only disappointment was that Inaam and the girls were not present because Inaam was not feeling well enough to come. Note the sleigh in the foreground, hopefully suitable for 3 little ones until they are old enough to walk and pull the groceries home! (*Photo Credit: Natalie*)

