Family Spotlight: High Standards for Education

Hello. We are the Kim family – Amy, Hoon, Basil and Calabria. Currently Hoon owns Pittsburgh Prep, an SAT company, and Fukuda, a Japanese restaurant in Bloomfield. I, Amy, am a stay at home mom. Hoon was born in Korea and moved to New York with his family at the age of 9. He attended NYU for undergrad and Harvard for a Masters in Education. I was born in Pittsburgh, attended Carlow College for Elementary Education and U. Pitt. for a Masters in Early Childhood Education. I moved to New York City after graduate school and taught kindergarten for 7 years at a private school on the Upper Westside. Hoon worked on the New York stock exchange for 6 years. We met through a friend and were married in Manhattan in 2006. We decided to move to Pittsburgh to start a family and be closer to my family. Pittsburgh was an affordable city that would allow me to be a stay at home mom. I taught at Shady Side Academy for one year before getting pregnant with Basil, the love of our lives. Basil has always been a creative, imaginative little boy with many interests. He loved to pretend cook since he was 12 months and liked seeing watermelons and pumpkins at the markets. Now he has an interest in collecting toy spiders, exploring outside, singing songs, and drawing. He loves construction sites and can’t get enough of watching real diggers at work, especially excavators, his favorite! He will often create an excavator out of anything in his sight (e.g., fruit, blocks, sticks, pasta).

Being an early childhood educator, I had high standards and expectations when researching preschools for Basil. After sitting in the parent orientation at the Children’s School and listening to Dr. Carver explain the philosophy, I knew it would be a great fit! We have been so pleased with the Children’s School. Basil has flourished here. He loves his teachers and shares everything they do in the classroom at home. During the “Animals in Winter” study, Basil would often say he is hibernating under the table or, while studying “Water”, he would lay on the floor and be a puddle of water and then evaporate. Now he is very fascinated with scorpions from the “Desert” unit! Calabria, our daughter, who just turned 18 months, is Basil’s number one admirer. She is adventurous and not afraid of anything. She brings us pure joy as well! We look forward to the time in two years when we can send her to the wonderful Children’s School.

Reading is a love we share everyday. Basil has a growing collection of books counting over 500 (my addiction)! We also enjoy walking our dog, Gnocchi, eating ice cream in Shadyside, visiting Phipps (especially the Chihuly & to pretend to grocery shop), and exploring the museums. During the weekends, we relax, play at home, cook / bake, and often visit Basil’s Nonna and Pappap in the country. Their house is a learning environment indoors and out!

We want to thank all the educators at the Children’s School for being so kind, caring, and sensitive to Basil. You are all fantastic!!