Family Spotlight: A Parent, Grandparent, and Teacher’s Perspective

As a Children's School educator for the past 18 years, I am a believer in the educational philosophy that providing a broad range of developmentally appropriate activities for our students enhances their learning experience. I observe this with my kindergarten students year after year.

Five years ago, the role of grandmother was added to my resume. My only choice for Lexi’s first school experience was The Children’s School. Yes, it was convenient to have her come and go with me, but watching her grow and blossom her first year with Mrs. Flynn and Mr. Salinetra was worth so much more than the carpool. She eagerly ran into the Blue Room and never looked back, so I was able to walk away knowing that she was in loving, caring hands for the afternoon. Lexi continued to grow in the Green Room as Ms. Mangan, Mrs. Solomon and the 4's team provided the perfect balance of play and learning, meeting her creative needs but also challenging her cognitively. Socially, she was encouraged to be a kind friend. Because of this mantra, Lexi has made friends with children and adults from all over the world!

Her kindergarten year has been joyful for me as I have watched her continue to build upon the foundation laid the previous years. As an educator, parent and grandmother, I have experienced the value of preparing the environment in such a way that allows children to explore and discover the world, independent of an adult's agenda. Watching their faces light up when the concept clicks is priceless. When the learning becomes their own, it is more likely to generate excitement that leads to more in depth exploration.

I had my "YES!" moment about the value of the Children's School education when I overheard a conversation that Lexi had with a friend. As the two of them came up with a solution to a problem they were having in the blocks, an adult in the classroom commented on their creative approach. Lexi replied, "Well, we are thinkers." The perfect summation to her time at the Children's School was stated by Benjamin Franklin. "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

Submitted by Donna Perovich, Children’s School Kindergarten Teacher and Grandmother of Lexi Steiner (K)!