Family Spotlight: Back in the Family Again

It is so hard to believe that it was 11 years ago that David jumped into Children’s School. It was mid-year, and our nanny wanted more time for teaching yoga. With his December 27th birthday, he was the youngest in the school, but everything worked for him and he loved it from the start.

Mrs. Tomer, Mr. Salinetro and Mrs. Rosenblum were his main teachers and their influence on our household was immediate and wonderful. From concrete things like “three try bites”, “be a kind friend”, and my favorite – the ability to “close” an area of toys without taking them away, to the less definable but more important tenets on how to grow up to be a good person, our family grew with direction from Children’s School.

Near the end of the year, Ryan was born with some temporary but serious medical problems. I called the office, gave them some details and then sobbed that David had drawn a caterpillar then scribbled it out insisting that not moving was dead. Ryan was in a coma at that point. When I picked David up from school that day, someone showed me the butterfly chrysalises and explained how the children learned that when one fell and didn’t move, they knew it was dead. The teachers had talked with David and were certain he was simply telling me about butterflies and not making a connection with his new baby brother.

Several years later, at the Children’s School, Ryan grew to be his own person. His time was filled with wondrous discovery. One day, he determined Mrs. Bird was really a grown up child, not old like the other teachers or his parents. Another day, he dressed himself in his suit for school. He was sorely disappointed when he didn’t marry his sweetheart that day, because he couldn’t think of any requirements for his wedding beyond a dress up suit.

We enjoyed five and a half years with Dr. Carver and all of the teachers and staff as important and loved people in our lives. We made many friends with other families. Our contributions over the years involved museum loans, astronomy activities, and Grandma’s reading adventures, all of which were great fun.

Then we were done. Ryan was in 1st grade, David in 4th. No more Children’s School for us. We came back one time and Ryan read a book about a mole learning to play the violin. David brought his violin and demonstrated everything from the horrendous schreech to the beautiful music. That was it.

Then Conor joined us. His brothers started planning his life months before he was born. Going to the Children’s School was a given. Learning to pronounce “Mr. Salinetro” was very important. What activities they could lead in the classroom on their days off from school became the subject of much planning. We were delighted to learn that the staff is mostly unchanged. This consistency is a testament to the deep goodness of the place and the teachers’ commitment to the school. Their knowledge and interest in how children learn and grow, their experience, patience and their love are unchanged.

We are so happy to be back in the family again.