

Parent Interview

1. How does your child feel about preschool?

B. is so excited to be around children his age and is having so much fun at school! When he first started the program, he was a little nervous, but that feeling soon went away.

2. What are you doing at home to cultivate learning?

We play a lot of games and build with blocks and legos. I make sure whatever we watch on television is educational and limit the time we spend in front of the tv. B. has his own workbooks that he does his "homework" in, just like his older brother. The math and early reading workbooks seem to be his favorite.

3. What kind of support would you like to receive from the preschool for your child's learning?

I would like to know in advance what is going to be discussed with the children so maybe we can talk about it at home. I like knowing what is going on at the preschool since I am not able to volunteer a lot of time.

4. What areas of development and curriculum would you like to see more focus on?

It seems like there is a lot of focus on playing and art in the preschool, and not a lot of reading and math-things that could prepare children for kindergarten. I would like to see a little more structure and focus on learning.

5. How does the program affect your home life?

B. seems to really enjoy the preschool, which I obviously like. He always says he likes school and all the friends he has, and I have noticed a change in his attitude--thankfully positive--since he started at the preschool. And I am not going to lie, it is a comfort to know he is happy when I have to drop him off for work, which was not the case in his last preschool! It really takes a lot of stress away!

6. How does the program relate to your routine?

I wish I was able to be more present in the classroom like some of the other moms, but my job just will not allow it. The routines of the preschool have found their way in our home, and I love it! B. is definitely more consistent with handwashing and tells me that we need to post a schedule at home so everyone can see what is next. That might be an interesting idea.

7. Have there been any life changes that could affect your child's experience in a program that a teacher is not and should be aware of?

As you know, we recently moved, and I thought that was going to be a real problem. B. seems to be handling it really well, and obviously the teachers are aware of this and have really welcomed him in the preschool. They spent his first day in the program asking him to talk about where he used to live and what he liked to do there, and a lot of the kids got really excited when they liked the same thing. I really thought that was a great way to welcome B.

8. What are your child's interests after being in the program?

B. is really into climbing trees right now, which was something he wasn't able to do at his last preschool--there weren't a lot of trees! When I ask him what he likes so much about climbing the trees, he says he just wants to be so high. B. also really likes building things with anything he can find around the house.

9. Have you noticed a difference in your child's social/problem solving skills since entering the program?

B. has definitely started talking a lot more positively about his classmates. I don't know if this is because of the teachers being more involved, maybe there are less fights among the children? He has also started talking more when working on his various "projects" around the house-it's like he's talking his way through everything. B. also really tries to involve his older brother in his projects as well.

10. How can the program improve?

I would just really like to see more focus on learning and less play. I'm not saying I want the children in desks and being forced to learn, but it seems like all that I hear about is what the children played each day.