

Smoky Hill High School  
16100 East Smoky Hill Road  
Aurora, Colorado 80015  
(720) 886-5300



Cherry Creek  
Schools

Dedicated to Excellence

Stephanie Rivera  
10170 Bismark Dr.  
Lone Tree, CO 80124

June 4, 2010

Hello. I wanted to write you as a parent of a child who has been at the Lone Tree location since he started in childcare at the age of 1. He recently "graduated" with the Wild Things class and will be attending Kindergarten in the fall at our neighborhood school, Lone Tree Elementary. As you can most likely see, I work in education and have high standards when it comes to learning. I can still remember the day I walked into CC and Kris Karpal greeted me so warmly. The first thing I noticed is that she new EVERY single child we interacted with, and was so sincere in her love for each and every one of them, even the one "taking a break" in her office. I again visited months later with my mother, and she remembered not only my name but also my sons. I was very impressed. The artwork, creativity and cleanliness of the facility impressed even my very particular mother who was "checking it all out."

When Kris moved facilities her absence was felt almost immediately. No more did I see the wonderful murals and crafts hanging from the ceiling, or the contests for creativity going on between the classroom teachers. It truly became just a regular school like I had visited countless other places. While the instruction was still superb in the classroom, the extra "special" Kris touches were definitely gone. Kris was truly what set this facility apart in my opinion. When she returned it was as if instantly the school became alive again, and children were laughing and talking about all the fun things back on the walls and hanging from the ceiling. Rarely did a day go by when I was picking up my son that Kris didn't get up out of her seat and come out and visit with me, versus looking down at her desk and "not noticing" who was coming in and out. Again, she is exceptional which I am sure you already know.

The other wonderful thing I feel the need to let you know about is the incredible work that Miss Jodi and Miss Stephanie have done over the two years my son has been with them. The organizational skills of these two and the teamwork they have, made their classroom a safe and predictable learning environment for the children, which is so important. My son often comes home and shares the important things Miss Stephanie and Miss Jodi have to say about being kind and being a good listener. He also cannot wait to show me the wonderful things they completed in class that day. Jodi is an exceptional communicator, and is in constant contact with her parents through email and phone calls. She has a rapport with her peers and parents that give her great leadership potential. I feel that Miss Stephanie has learned much of her skill from being in the classroom with Jodi, and think she would be a great class leader as well. I cried when Jodi got promoted as I think she has taught my son the most since being enrolled there, but really felt the promotion was deserved. She reminds me a lot of Miss Sarah who also got promoted years ago. She has a lot of the same characteristics in the classroom. While Jodi was out and Miss Stephanie got her chance at leading, I think she transitioned seamlessly. I am really trying to encourage Miss Stephanie to go on and get her teaching license, because I think she has it in her soul to work with these little people. She is the only babysitter my son wants to use this summer, and even though he is done at CC now, there isn't a day that goes by that I don't have to hear about what "Miss Stephanie says...."

The bottom line is this: these three wonderful, wonderful ladies have had such a tremendous impact on my son and our family that I will forever be grateful. Although I have never met you personally, I want to thank you for creating this learning environment and hiring teachers that truly work here because they love it, not because its "just a job." Our experience here has set the bar really high for what we feel Kindergarten should be, so I hope it can live up to the expectation. Have a great summer!!

Brenda Bowker