

Dear Madam Principal and Teachers,

I am writing to let you know how pleased we are with the knowledge and education our son, Siddharth, is receiving at your school.

Siddharth had done a year of Montessori in Bangalore before coming to Calgary and we were keen to have a continuation of the beautiful experience with Montessori that we had. And it really was a seamless transition provided by you wonderful teachers of Montessori Alberta.

I would like to mention the notable points in our journey over the last year with Montessori and especially Montessori Alberta.

- Being our first year in Calgary & Canada, our reservations (if any), about the school and the teachers disappeared when Siddharth insisted on going to school every day. An added bonus was, he started enjoying writing in earnest and completed writing 1 to 100 on chalkboard within a month of joining the school.
- The School itself is a beautiful hall full of stimulating activities, ranging from life skills, sensorial material, math, language, geography and much more. Every instructional material is designed to make the fundamentals clear in a child's mind. Once learnt, the child would remember the logic & principles without much effort.
- Circle time discussion is a nice way to introduce the kids to wildlife. In fact, Siddharth has taught us a lot about Penguins (his favorite), Elk, Husky, Polar Bear, Cougar (to name a few), with details which only serious wildlife enthusiasts would know. This is something which is going to stay in his memory for his lifetime.
- The counting song which starts from his friends in the school to the Universe ["13 boys and girls in the school of Montessori Alberta, in the city of Calgary, ...], is a very interesting way to teach the kids about the connection between them and the universe progressively.
- Sidd's conversations with Ms. Diana has made him communicate with passion and confidence about a variety of topics [special mention to horses]. In fact, we have observed; he makes conscious effort to learn something new at home to make a conversation with Ms. Diana the next day.
- Sidd's never give-up attitude is a natural inheritance from Ms. Yaso's persistence with him in the earlier days at Montessori Alberta.
- Sidd's observation and attention to the details are the results of Ms. Mahrukh's disciplined approach. She gets all the credit for coaxing Sidd on his writing and language skills and nurturing him carefully in all aspects of his growth at school. Her consistent and constant feedback about the day-to-day activities ensured we had no surprise on his behavior and tantrums. She understands his strengths and weakness so well, uses both assertion and compromise (by praises and encouragement) equally to get the job done. We are really grateful for the effort that she puts for his improvement.

With the all-round development and progress he has made in the past year we are confident in the Montessori Method of childhood education and the teachers at Montessori Alberta. Hence, Siddharth will continue his Kindergarten at Montessori Alberta in the coming year.

Thank you for all your efforts, care and attention for Siddharth and for making his learning (social, emotional, physical and intellectual) at school such a wonderful experience for him, each and every day. We look forward to an exciting next year as well.

Thanks & Regards
Durga&Sharan
June 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

My three children attended the Montessori-Alberta program at St. Barnabas Church. The oldest started in January of 2008 and the youngest is finishing this month.

We have been extremely satisfied with this program. The school gave our children a broad education and prepared them for entry into the public school system. They developed a strong foundation in reading, language and math and also strengthened their social skills.

One of the main assets of this program was that the teachers remained consistent throughout our tenure. These teachers fostered the children's learning through personalized care. The children were consistently challenged with work that was appropriate for their ability levels.

The Montessori classroom is extremely organized and the children go about their work in a mature way, even from a very young age. Expectations are high and our children thrived in this environment. I have been impressed with the scope of materials covered: geography, biology, self-care, housekeeping chores, art and penmanship. This is a more academic program than some other pre-schools. I would recommend that families attend an orientation session to ascertain whether Montessori is a good fit for their child.

Sara Davies

To whom it may apply

Dated (Oct 2014)

Molly has completed two years at Montessori. She started when she was 3 years, 6 months. Overall, I would say that Molly has blossomed during this time, and I have to thank Montessori for that.

What was really important to me is that the teachers, in particular Ms Mahrukh took the time to understand my child on an individual basis. With the one on one instruction, she really figured out my child at the ground level. She figured out what motivated her, how to keep her engaged and what she needed to progress. Molly is a very interesting child. She has high energy, and a lower attention span which is quite normal if you take into account her personality. According to Myers Briggs Type Typology she is (E)xtroverted, (S)ensing, F(eeling), P(erceiving), in others words ESFP, an adventurous and fun loving child. Before learning can take place, Molly needs to make an emotional connection with her teacher. Ms Mahrukh understood this and achieved this by sometimes giving her a hug or positive feedback. She did this while at the same time disciplining her so that Molly knew her boundaries. In addition, she understood how to work with her and to keep her challenged, as Molly is quite bright. Other teachers may have thought that she had a short attention span and Molly may have got bored which could have lead to trouble in the classroom.

So Molly has really done well thanks to Ms Mahrukh's influence and care. I just hope she meets similar teachers as she progresses through school. Teachers that take the time to get to know kids on a individual basis rather than trying to fit them into the classic mould. The other teachers at this Montessori were also very helpful.

Daniel Pink makes reference to Montessori in his book entitled "Drive" which is predominately intended for motivating people in the workshop. In his book that advocates the benefits of "Intrinsic Motivation", he refers to Montessori schooling as observing children's natural curiosity and innate desire to learn. I feel that Molly has developed that Intrinsic Motivation to learn and will come away with that wonderful engrained independent love of learning which will aid her further learning in years to come.

The professionalism of the administration was second to none thanks to Ms Diana. I experienced total organization and efficiency with respect to all administration, payment, etc.

Thank you again for making such an important difference in the life of my second child. I wish I had been aware of the Montessori Alberta presence for my older child.

Nicola Lee (Molly and Katie's mum)

To,

Montessori Alberta Ltd.
1407, 7th Avenue NW
Calgary, AB.

From, Mr & Mrs. Praveen Raveendran
(Parents of Gautham)
#806, 505, Fourth Avenue
Calgary SW, AB.

To whomsoever concern,

My son Gautham has been studying in Montessori Alberta for the past one and half years. Montessori program has developed his mathematical, analytical and verbal skills a lot. We got surprised to see his changes even from initial days itself. Being a new comer in Canada, everything was new to him. But, Montessori training taught him the basics of social behaviours, class room manners and made him capable of doing things himself. We are so fortunate to find creative teachers, who gave such a wonderful educational experience to our son. Lots of good moments to cherish when we look back.

Thank you for laying a strong foundation where he can build his dreams!!!

Calgary,
27-06-2014

Yours Lovingly,
Mr & Mrs. Praveen Raveendran
(Signature)

Lynne Rennie and Brian Beck
June 13, 2013

Re: Montessori Alberta Ltd.
1407-7 Ave NW
Calgary AB

To whom it may concern;

Our two children attended Diana Runge's Montessori Alberta preschool in Calgary for the 2012-2013 school year.

Both our children flourished this year at Montessori. They reacted positively to the bright, clean and cheerful school atmosphere. Each day, there was enough structure to allow them to focus on their work and progress in their skills but enough warmth and friendliness to make them feel comfortable and allow them to build real and lasting friendships with other children.

As parents, we appreciated the consistent professionalism and caring always shown by Diana and her wonderful teaching team. The focus was always entirely on the children, never on unnecessary outside assignments, fundraising or events.

We feel our children received the very best of education in the Montessori method at Montessori Alberta Ltd., and would recommend this school without reservation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Rennie', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.