

Our daughter came to La Petite a few months before she turned 3. From birth to age 2, she had stayed home with her father and had minimal interaction with other children. She then was in part-time care at a traditional daycare center for about seven months, and it was not a good fit for her reserved personality. She didn't participate and, though very chatty at home, she spoke very little at school. When a spot opened at La Petite, we signed up despite the logistical challenges that it initially created for us. Within two weeks, we knew we had made the right decision. S. was back to her cheery self and she inundated us with stories about her school. She has now been at La Petite Ecole for eight months and she is thriving in every way.

I would encourage any parent who is looking for a preschool that goes beyond teaching the ABCs to visit La Petite Ecole. The curriculum is top-notch for learning in English and French. Each week offers a different theme that encourages learning through a variety of vehicles: songs, books, activities, etc.

Yet La Petite is so much more than a place to learn French and preschool basics. It is a school where childhood is celebrated and learning goes beyond the classroom. Regular field trips expose children to a mix of fun and educational activities, from visiting a pumpkin patch to going to a children's symphony to roller skating. Birthdays are celebrated with all the children pitching in to make a special treat for the birthday child. A beginning of the school year picnic and a holiday party create a sense of community among the families that lasts long after children move on to kindergarten.

Just as important, children learn how to be caring, respectful and compassionate. They are expected to treat themselves and each other with respect. And their lessons go beyond their interactions with each other. Last December, the children learned about giving back to those less fortunate and they brought in change to give to the Denver Rescue Mission. Patricia mailed the donation with a thoughtful letter and a photo of the class. All of the kids were thrilled to receive a personal thank you letter back.

It is obvious that teaching isn't a job for Patricia. She loves what she does, and children thrive in her care. She encourages them to be their very best selves—intellectually, emotionally and physically—in a way that is supportive and individualized to each child. There is no doubt in my mind that any child would thrive at La Petite Ecole.