

Letter from a parent

As a new parent, I had no idea what to expect when searching for a daycare. I wanted a place that would be safe, educational and close to home. Flanner House Daycare is all that and more. Not only does my son get to experience great activities such as pottery class and community field trips, he also gets the attention and dedication from staff that every child deserves. My son is learning his ABC's and is able to count to 10 before reaching 2 years of age. In addition to that, he is now beginning spanish classes as well. I am always up to date about anything involving my child so I never feel like I've missed any "first times" and I can honestly say that my child is loved by all of his staff. He is able to grow up with his classmates and build bonds away from home which is essential in molding him into a great young man. Flanner House Daycare is constantly coming up with ways to advance their care to our children. More recently they have updated their facility by upgrading their playground and classrooms to provide even more structure to better educate children and facilitate their activities. One of the best feelings in the world is knowing that when I drop my son off every morning, he is going to be in good hands.

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Our daughter absolutely loves attending daycare at Flanner House. Every day when I pick her up, she spends our trip home telling me all about what she learned with "teacher Miss Meg and teacher Miss Lawson," and all the fun she has with her friends. Her days are filled with "reading the books!" and "coloring the pictures!" (Spider-Man is her favorite subject), and "running on the playground!" and by the time she gets home she has a whole world to tell me about, including special art days, Spanish classes, and more. A few days ago, my daughter greeted me with "Hola, Buenos dias!" instead of her usual "hi daddy!" and I was blown away. While I work with language for my career, my spouse and I speak only English fluently. We've always wanted to learn more languages and want our daughter to grow up more than monolingual, but I am unable to teach her without first learning myself, and learning language becomes more difficult and consumes more time (that I don't have) as one ages. I sincerely appreciate Flanner House daycare's commitment to exposing my daughter to language during her critical period of language-learning, so she can have a better language skill set than I do.

Even beyond her daily enjoyment, beyond the Spanish lessons, beyond even the great relationship my daughter has with her teachers, who she tells me she "likes a lot" on a regular basis (even unprompted, on weekends!), the benefits we've seen from Flanner House's daycare are incredible. My child's development has accelerated rapidly since she first began attending. I believe this has to do not only with the hard work her teachers put in every day working and speaking directly with her and the other students, but because of the way we communicate about what we do at home, what they're doing at school, and how we can work together for my daughter's benefit and growth. Having just turned two years old a few months ago, my daughter is far ahead of many of her developmental milestones (as it seems are many of her peers at daycare). She is speaking mostly in full sentences, and can often communicate what is frustrating her rather than lashing out—an incredible jump from when she first began attending just a few short months before. While riding the bus a few days ago, she pointed out the window and said in a teacherly tone, "daddy, that's the Post Office, okay?" Sure enough, it was. I asked her how she knew what the Post Office was, since she had never been there. She replied, "It's the sign, daddy. I read it." I told her that coming from a two-year-old, this only raises further questions! I asked at daycare when we arrived, and of course this was part of a lesson she learned from her teachers about reading signs around the city. My smart little girl decided to take the lesson to heart, and teach it back to me! She is making strides in potty training, has seen a shift in positive, productive behaviors surrounding disappointment (and a drop in tantrums!) and more, and I firmly believe it is a result of the collective effort between myself, my spouse, and the incredible people at Flanner House daycare who are helping my daughter grow into an incredible person who will change the world someday far too soon for her father's comfort. Working with them to guide our little person has been an incredible experience, and I couldn't recommend them highly enough.

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