

TESTIMONIALS 2009

My daughter has always been adventurous, inquisitive and independent and because of these qualities we were desperate for an outlet for her to express her uniqueness. She had outgrown daycare, but was too young (chronologically) for Kindergarten, so we searched for a programme that would suit her needs. On her introductory day, she was insulted that it was not a full day of activities. She fit in immediately. Harriette, Donna, Nickey and Antoinette have become a part of her extended family and she loves them each dearly. Academically, she has honed her skills and acquired new ones, socially she has more friends than I can count. We are both lucky to have had this experience and know that has been an irreplaceable time in her life.

As the African Proverb states, "It takes a village to raise a child..." we are both proud to be parts of the Merton international village.

Parent of a child in Pre-K 2008-2009

I must admit that I found this particular pre-K class to be a delight to entertain. They were all so attentive and enthusiastic, and I believe --from the laughter, smiles, and happy eyes that I saw throughout the "Sunshine Room" during my show, that they genuinely enjoyed themselves and the interactive-comedy Show experience.

I trust the after-show feedback was positive.

Please give my special thanks to your class teacher, Harriet, whose great attitude and guidance helped me prepare the room for my show during my pre-show set up. She was also a great sport, as she even "willingly" volunteered to assist me during my show --and also "loaned" me her cell phone to help generate some extra laughs from everyone in the room.

Mary too, proved to be an able assistant, as was the mom of Christina.

Magician/Entertainer March 2009

As parents, it is more than natural to desire the best for our children. As a Merton Pre-K parent I truly believe that my son is part of a great school and is involved in a great pre -kindergarten program. When I first decided to sign him in it was because I felt that something was lacking in his life- friends. He did not have any peers to share his playtime with. Merton Pre-K program filled that void and gave him a whole lot more. Each day, my husband and I , we are amazed by how much he has learned at school, how much he has developed his vocabulary and how advanced he is with his ABCs and his counting. He is much more independent, confident and motivated to learn. We were really impressed by his concerts that have developed in him a desire to sing and perform. The field trips and birthday parties during the school year have provided for additional adventure and fun. Academically speaking, Merton gives the advantage of a comprehensive curriculum versus supervised playtime. This is something he would have never gotten at home. The “Sunshine room” has really proved to be a wonderful and stable environment that any child deserves at those most crucial early years.

Yet, the most important is the love, compassion, affection, hugs and kisses that he is greeted with each and every day. His teachers have really shown him that he is special and unique. I really appreciate all the efforts on the part of the staff and I am really happy that my son is continuing with Merton Pre-K next year.

Parents of child in Pre-k 2008-2009

The best testimonials are sometimes those that are from the mouths of the children. I have two children who have completed Pre-K. My son graduated as recently as June 2009, and my daughter in June 2007.

My children love Harriette and Donna. I believe it is because of their admiration; they would never want to miss a day of school. The love travelled both ways and the classroom became an extension of home.

The teachers are kind and fair with the children. My son, who unlike my daughter, is a child that definitely needs structure. The manner to which the teachers handled him was with the utmost patience and

tenderness. Most days when I would pick my son up at school, I would beg to take the teachers home as well.

I always felt that my children were being well cared for and were being taught how to be kind and considerate individuals with compassion for others and their community.

There was always something fun going on in the class and there was always something to learn behind the fun.

I would like to thank the teachers for two wonderful experiences within the Pre-K program. My daughter still like to stop by and say hello to everyone she knew and I have no doubt that my son will also be there giving his infamous devilish hugs to all the teachers.

Parent of child in Pre-K 2008-2009 and child in Grade 1 (Pre-K 2006-2007).

My daughter Yasmine had been to three daycares prior to arriving at Merton's Pre-K. Her daycare experiences had not been positive, and when we moved to NDG, border Cote-St.-Luc, I was dreading the possibility of going through any more negative experiences.

Being a working mom, I wanted to find a place where my daughter would be nurtured, disciplined appropriately, and be educated in the broadest sense of that word. I desired a place where the values we enforced at home would be reinforced so that we, her parents, would be working in partnership with her caretakers in helping our little flower grow straight and strong and flourish.

Although Merton was just two blocks away, I had not seen it on my neighbourhood walks. I discovered it, as luck would have it, on the Internet. After an initial visit, I registered my daughter, having received a very warm welcome by Fernanda of the Home and School Association and the Pre-K educators who struck me with their warmth, sense of humour and obvious dedication to the children.

A year has gone by, and even though it is with a little sadness that I see it end, it is also with a tremendous amount of gratitude. The Pre-K team of Harriette, Donna, Nikki and Antoinette are amazing, working harmoniously together to create a loving, caring and fun environment where children can truly blossom.

I consider myself, and especially my daughter, fortunate and blessed to have been a part of Merton's Pre-K program. All mothers want the best for their children. I found it tucked away, a block west of the main road - a precious jewel just waiting to be discovered.

Parent of child in Pre-K 2008-2009

Thanks to Merton Pre-K Professional team for your unbiased love and affection shown towards our daughter Hannah. You have created an environment that was conducive to the child's physical, social, cognitive and emotional well-being and I must applaud you for that.

Your nurturing and guidance has helped to build her self confidence, she never showed any separation anxiety when she first attended Pre-K and was always happy to be at school.

We were certainly touched during the time of her hospitalization when Harriette took the time to have the children sing a song to her and made her a beautiful card which we still have, so keep up the good work, we are confident that her experience in Pre-K will make a smoother transition into Kindergarten .

Good luck and have a great summer.

Parents of child in Pre-K 2008 2009

My daughter, Kayla, was potty trained but, only 3 and half when we decided to enroll her into Merton's Pre-K class. We had her older brother in the school and knew it would be of great convenience for us to have her there as well instead of driving to different locations for each child. We had complete confidence in the well qualified staff having had our son complete Pre-K there. Ms. Harriette and Ms. Donna always kept me abreast as to how Kayla was doing. They let me know about her progress, her attention span, her social skills, as well as her fine motor and gross motor skills. I have never met more loving, compassionate teachers in my life! I can with all honesty say

that if a family is looking for a safe, playful environment where they know the teachers will be nurturing, creative, and attentive to their child's needs, then this is the school and class for them. My child thrives and loves to be there! She adores these women as well as the other instructors. I honour these staff members and applaud the work they are doing. My daughter is returning for her second year in this Pre-K class as she is now of the correct age to be there and she is looking forward to working on her letters and shapes and being the "big" girl in the class this time around. There will be new friends and the safe familiar faces of her loving teachers. Thank you to all Merton staff for what you do for our children and thank you parents who get involved and make such a difference with our school!!

Parent of a child in Pre -K 2008-2009 and other child in Grade 2 2008-2009 (Pre-K 2007-2008)

From the moment I walked into the Merton Pre-K classroom I knew that I had made the right choice for my daughter. My daughter had never gone to daycare and was always looked after by family, so I was a bit hesitant at the thought of leaving her with strangers. But all that changed after meeting Harriette and Donna. Harriette and Donna, as well as Nikki and Antoniette, truly care for all their Pre-K children. They welcomed my daughter as if she was part of their families and by the end of the school year, we were all a family. All the children got along well together, as well as the moms and dads and the teachers. Friends were made not only between the children, but between the adults also. Thank you Harriette, Donna, Nikki and Antoniette for all that you have done to make my daughter's introduction to school such a loving and memorable one.

Parent of a child in Pre-K 2008-2009

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June 12, 2009

Dear Merton School Pre-Kindergarten Students & Harriet & Donna,

On behalf of the patients & residents of Mount Sinai Hospital, we would like to thank you for your dedication and hard work on the "Greeting Pictures" that you made for us on Passover and Easter. These works of art brought smiles to many people's faces. One patient in particular loved your artwork so much that she made sure that she could see it perfectly from where she was sitting in her bed.

Thanks again for a job well done and hopefully we can do it again next year.

Sincerely,



Louise Boman
Patient Welfare Chairperson



