

August 2015

To whom it may concern,

In the Fall of 2013, I began looking for a daycare centre for my then 2 and a half year old. She had already attended a private home daycare for my first year back to work and was home with me as I started my second maternity leave. I knew she would benefit from some time outside of the home and I could devote that attention to my new infant.

In December, she began attending The Chestnut Tree Preschool (Grimsby location) on a part-time basis (2 full days a week). The initial transition took a few weeks, as expected, and she became more comfortable each day. I was very impressed by the set-up inside the small church building. The classroom was and continues to be well-maintained, clean and always vibrant with the children's artwork and interest based activities ready to play. My oldest started attending preschool full-time when I returned to work in September 2014 and her sister joined her as soon as possible, when she was only 16 months old (Jan. 2015) and started walking.

The staff at the Grimsby location are welcoming, professional, creative and most importantly, they have a genuine interest in each of the children in their care. As a teacher myself, this is very apparent to me and very important to me. These ladies love what they do and they know the children they are caring for very well. The bonds of attachment between the children and the staff are evident.

A common complaint among some of my friends is that there is a high turnover of staff at the centres where their children attend. We have had the same 3 main caregivers/teachers since December 2013 when my oldest started. We've also had the pleasure of meeting 2 other caregivers who've helped with staffing when needed in that time.

I am also very impressed with the amount of learning that goes on each day. The first time my daughter came home and printed her name was bittersweet for me – I am her mother and I am a teacher, yet, I didn't teach her how to print her name. I was happy to realize that another caring adult devoted that time and attention to teach her how to do that. She is more than prepared for Junior Kindergarten, recognizing and printing letters, counting, reciting days of the week and telling me all sorts of facts she learns about the world around her.

My youngest is now almost 2 years old and she has been well cared for as an infant in the program. Her vocabulary is flourishing and she has formed the sweetest friendships with her peers. I really enjoy picking her up at the end of the day and hearing all sorts of personal anecdotes about her day. I'm always amazed that with a classroom full of children, the teachers can still tell me all sorts of personal things, directly related to my girls' days.

We are very pleased with The Chestnut Tree Preschool (Grimsby location), and especially the staff. It is a wonderful feeling knowing that my children are well taken care of during the day when I can't be with them.

Sincerely,

Meghan Araujo