



# A+ teachers

I'm very fortunate. Both of my sons are in great schools with amazing teachers.

Matthew, who is 2, started school when he was only 18 months old. I went back to work full-time, and off to nursery school he went. Luckily, I was able to find a full-day program with a caring, wonderful staff. Kaitlin, Tenneka, and Nayo are exactly the type of teachers you'd want watching a young child from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day. They make learning fun and enjoyable. For example, they brought worms to class when it was raining to let the children learn about nature and the elements. Also, they are constantly baking things in class—stirring, measuring, taking turns—working on hand-eye coordination, fine motor skills, and the art of cooperating with others. The energy and patience of these teachers (overseeing a group of 2-year-olds each day is not easy!) astounds and amazes me. Plus, they're always cheerful, even turning tasks that kids don't want to do—like cleaning up—into enjoyable activities by singing a wacky song and finding new ways to be creative. Matthew is learning every day, and the beauty is he doesn't realize it because he's having so much fun.

Jack, my 4-year-old, is equally lucky. Jen, Jessica Marjie, and Rhea make preschool interesting, fun, *and* educational. Jack has learned so much in the year he's been in their class—writing his name, recognizing letters and numbers, learning the social skills needed for a lifetime. In addition to the "school" part, Jack also has gym class, swimming, yoga, music, and art. School isn't just about ABCs and 123s, it's about learning a variety of things and figuring out which activity a child has an interest in and penchant for and fostering that interest in the years to come.

The connection between teachers and students—at least at this age—is about education as much as it's about loving, caring contact. When kids enjoy school when they're young—and have an amazing educational springboard to launch from—there's no telling what they can accomplish.

I'm extremely grateful and thankful for the teachers my young boys have. They've set the bar high, and my boys will benefit from that. As a parent, I thank all the great teachers out there for doing an amazing job with our kids, year after year.

## P.S.

Get involved in your child's school by taking part in KIWI's National Take Your Parents to Lunch Day on October 16. Eat with your child in the cafeteria and your school could win a grant for \$1,000. For more information, go to [myhealthyschool.com/lunchday](http://myhealthyschool.com/lunchday).

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and all of the wonderful kids in our lives

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