

When I changed jobs, our schedule changed and we began looking for daycare/pre-school placement for our daughter. We happened to attend an open house at Rock Prairie Montessori School, and we were blown away. We knew this was the place for her.

She started attending Children's House when she was about 3 and a half. She spent mornings in your Ms. Martha's class, and the afternoons in the child care. When she was around 4 and a half she started attending Children's House and Extended Day; in other words, a full day classroom experience. This was to be her last year at Montessori. However, she grew so much and learned so much, and Milton still only had a half-day kindergarten program. Of course, going to public school meant no more tuition payments for mom and dad.

But, we got to wondering if the financial aspect wasn't the most important factor. And, after much soul searching and a meeting with Ms. Martha, we decided to keep her at Montessori for her kindergarten year. **BEST DECISION WE HAVE EVER MADE!!!!!!**

I know a lot of people are afraid to delay the transition to public school. But, it was never a problem for our daughter. She has always done well academically.....straight A's through middle school, and a 4.0 to start off high school. The thing about Rock Prairie Montessori is that while academics are important, they understand the concept of educating the whole child. Our daughter is focused, and enjoys doing well. She handles herself well in difficult social situations, and has learned to enjoy her accomplishments and cope with disappointments. She has learned that if something doesn't work out for her, she needs to come up with a new plan and start again. My husband and I attribute many of these characteristics to that kindergarten year. Ms. Martha did a wonderful job sticking to the Montessori philosophy, but also prepared her students for the traditional classroom experience. Each time I walked into Ms. Martha's room it was a calm, cozy environment where all the children were engaged with learning. It is interesting to think back at how emotional I was when it was time to move on. I think I spent most of that last day in tears. I didn't cry when our daughter moved from the elementary school to the intermediate school, or on to the middle school, or on to the high school. Although, I may tear up when she goes to college!!! My point is, I knew something wonderful and special had happened to my child while she was at Rock Prairie Montessori School and we are still reaping the benefits from that experience nine years later. **BEST DECISION WE EVER MADE!!!!!!**

Thank-you!!

-Brenda Alexander, Alumni Parent