

## Reference Letter for Elise Dasko

To whom it may concern,

For 2 years I worked in a preschool program owned and operated by Elise Dasko. I initially met Elise through a practicum assignment where I was required to complete a critical analysis of different Early Childhood settings. I was very impressed by the program Elise had created; I had never seen the Montessori approach integrated with learn through play before. I found that the children enrolled in the program enjoyed their time at the school and enjoyed completing the activities that had been planned for them. As part of my assignment I was asked to list positive and negative aspects of each program I visited, but after visiting the Montessori I was only able to include positive aspects in my assignment.

When I found an opportunity was available to become a teacher at Elise's school I was quick to jump on such an opportunity. Throughout my time at the Montessori I always felt that the main goal of the school was to ensure the children enjoyed their time at the school. I watched children thrive in the program; children who found it difficult to sit through stories would flourish with the mathematics. The staggered curriculum based on the child's ability and time spent at the school made it possible for each child's needs to be met and learn at their own pace, children did not have to wait to learn something new based on their classmates abilities. The program covered all aspects of a child's development, from motor skills, to intellectual skills and even common courtesy. The areas of the program that the children really enjoyed were the monthly extra-curricular classes, cooking, art and music, as well as the field trip and special visitors Elise would schedule.

As a staff member I always felt my opinion was heard and I was treated fairly. We were given adequate time to plan and create activities for the children. Elise encouraged personal growth for the teachers as well, I became certified in the Montessori approach and attended workshops while being employed by Elise. We were always provided with materials we required to complete crafts and activities.

As a parent of a young child now, I would hope to find a preschool program similar to the one Elise provides. It was a safe and encouraging environment for children to learn, play, grow and most importantly have fun.

Thank you

Kori Toma