



A Parent's Perspective

Before enrolling him in Rockridge Little School, my son had experienced several other learning environments, as we moved a few times in the first years of his life. Though he always performed well and learned something valuable from each school, I knew—and he may have too—that we hadn't yet found a perfect fit.

Until Rockridge Little School. I already had a good feeling after speaking with Holly Gold, the school's director, by phone—and as soon as I walked in to the Monkey room, I knew that I had finally found what I'd been looking for. Other schools had felt too rigid, too disorganized, too...uninspired. The energy at RLS was alive, moving. All of the teachers were working hands-on with the kids, yet all were also present enough to greet me warmly. The kids were actively involved in a variety of projects, and as I watched them I marveled at how well they worked together. Even the finished art projects on the wall seemed to be just waiting for some student—or teacher—to throw some more paint on them or glue on another rock or feather. It was the kind of place I'd been dreaming of for us.

I say "us," because RLS is truly a community, in a way that is unique, in my experience. Every person there cares—about the school, about the kids, about the world. I look forward each morning to my chats with my son's teachers, his classmates, their parents, and with Holly, the school's director. There is a real feeling that we bring something important to them too—the teachers are wide open to new ideas and feedback, and they love when we bring something to share or contribute our perspective.

Perhaps even more than the inspiring creative environment of RLS—I described it as "controlled chaos" to a friend after my first visit, and I still find that description both apt and exciting—I value the teachers' support of and care for my son. Every day I get specific feedback regarding his behavior and experiences during the day—which helps me feel I'm not missing so much, like I'm a part of his day even when I'm away. They tell me with heartwarming sincerity how much they love having him in their lives.

He is well-protected, well-loved, and he is learning and thriving. He is there full-time, yet he is never ready to go when I come to pick him up. Kids at RLS are never bored! Away from the school, I've noticed a real difference in the way he engages with the world...he seems to notice more, to talk more, to want to understand more and explain more.

In our months at RLS, every single one of my exchanges with the students, parents, and staff has been positive. We feel blessed to be part of this community—and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the school during your own decision-making process.

—Tiffany Watson
707-398-1242 (cell)
tiffarhae@yahoo.com

A pre-school for children ages two and half to five years old

5951 College Avenue Oakland, California 94618 510-420-1200 www.rockridgelittleschool.com