



THE  
SOLOMON  
SCHECHTER  
DAY SCHOOL  
OF GREATER HARTFORD

March 10, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

At Solomon Schechter we take great pride in the attention we give to the individual needs of our diverse population. In most cases the state and local regulations are in sync with our own; however, in the Temkin situation regarding Bolus Tube feedings for their lovely daughter, Alyssa, it became readily apparent that her health and overall wellbeing would be compromised were her designated caregiver prevented from being able to serve in this capacity within the school and we therefore fully support this effort to permit such interactions for those few individuals with such severe needs as Alyssa.

As the Temkin family nanny, Sara provided feedings throughout Alyssa's preschool career and was trained directly by Alyssa's physician to do so. This dynamic worked in the preschool setting and, anticipating Alyssa's arrival, we took all the appropriate steps to ensure her initiation into our school would be a positive one. The Temkins acquired a written statement from the town indicating that it would be possible to have their own nanny parents or designated caregiver (ie. Sara) be responsible for Alyssa's bolus tube feedings. After several attempts to obtain confirmations since last May 2010, it was only at the very end of the summer that the town changed its opinion, which led to a significant disruption and behavioral regression for Alyssa.

Working closely with Senator Harris, our school and others, the Temkins found a temporary work-around to permit Sara to be involved in the daily routines involving feedings. This successful adjustment has already had a significant impact on the well being of the entire class as it reinforced a positive engagement with someone other than a parent. Sara's inclusion as an alternate caregiver has empowered Alyssa to continue her successful growth and has positively affected the classroom and our school.

Sometimes the very efforts to address the needs of a portion of the population serve to alienate the very people it was designed to protect. I believe the effort to pass this bill will truly help those who need it most and I strongly urge the legislature to support this effort.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss Alyssa's situation any further, please feel free to contact me at 860-561-0700 (ext 158).

Sincerely,

**Behzad Dayanim** BM MA MBA  
Head of School

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