



THE  
SOLOMON  
SCHECHTER  
DAY SCHOOL  
OF GREATER HARTFORD

March 10, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

We have been working with Alyssa Temkin in our Kindergarten classroom, at Solomon Schechter Day School, since the end of August. She is a very sweet, happy, enthusiastic, and highly motivated little girl. She loves to play with her friends, especially in the art and dramatic play areas. She is making excellent progress in all areas of our curriculum including Reading, Handwriting, Math, Science, and Social Studies. She has also started to discover a real love of creative writing. She has written many stories using phonics; beginning, middle, and ending sounds, and many sight words. She stands in front of the class and reads her stories with such a sense of pride and accomplishment. Alyssa is enjoying a dual curriculum program at our school. In addition to General Studies, she is exploring her Jewish identity, learning the Hebrew aleph-bet and delights in learning about the Jewish holidays. Alyssa is accomplishing all academic benchmarks at an appropriate time for her age. Alyssa will be ready for the first grade curriculum.

Every 90 minutes Alyssa is tube fed by her mom, dad, or her nanny, Sarah. One of these three persons (most of the time it's Sarah) comes into our classroom and sits down next to Alyssa to feed her. Alyssa continues to do whatever it is she is doing at the time.

The other children were curious at first about it. Gayle, her mom, had a wonderful talk with our children about Alyssa and her feeding tube, and after about a week, no one paid any more attention. They realized it is part of who she is. To the children and to us, Alyssa is a valued individual just like every other member of our classroom. It was not this easy in the beginning of the year. All plans were set in place for Sarah to feed Alyssa, but when that was changed it caused upset for Alyssa, and in fact the other students in the classroom. Now that the routine is back in place, and Sarah feeds Alyssa most days, it is seamless. Alyssa is with someone who is familiar with her, and her care, but also Sarah comes in and out of the classroom with no disruption to the group.

Alyssa is so happy here at SSDS. She is a joy to work with and we feel so privileged to be a part of her educational experience.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss Alyssa's progress any further, please don't hesitate to contact us at 561-0700 (ext 101).

Sincerely,

Michelle Fontaine  
Yeshiva Cohen-Cruz  
Kindergarten Teachers at the Solomon Schechter Day School, West Hartford, CT

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