

To Whom It May Concern:

We worked with Alyssa Temkin in our Kindergarten classroom, at Solomon Schechter Day School, last year. She is a very sweet, happy, enthusiastic, and highly motivated little girl. She loved to play with her friends, especially in the art and dramatic play areas. She made excellent progress in all areas of our curriculum including Reading, Handwriting, Math, Science, and Social Studies. She discovered a real love of creative writing. She wrote many stories using phonics; beginning, middle, and ending sounds, and many sight words. She stood in front of the class and reads her stories with such a sense of pride and accomplishment. Alyssa enjoys a dual curriculum program at our school. In addition to General Studies, she explores her Jewish identity, learning the Hebrew aleph-bet and delights in learning about the Jewish holidays. Alyssa accomplished all academic benchmarks at an appropriate time for her age.

Every 90 minutes Alyssa is/was tube fed by her mom, dad, or her nanny, Sarah. One of these three persons (most of the time it's Sarah) came into our classroom and sat down next to Alyssa to feed her. Alyssa continued to do whatever it is she was 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/was 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. Once the routine was back in place, and Sarah fed Alyssa most days, it was seamless. Alyssa is/was with someone who is familiar with her, and her care, but also Sarah came in and out of the classroom with no disruption to the group.

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

Sincerely ,

Michelle Fontaine

Yeshiva Cohen-Cruz

Kindergarten Teachers - Solomon Schechter Day School, West Hartford, CT