

Testimonials

As they say, blessings come in disguise. My wife was wondering what she was doing sitting in mid-afternoon traffic on Rolling Hills Road in November 2007 as she happened to see the sign for the recently opened pre-school called Rolling Hills Montessori. We had been looking for a pre-school for our daughter who was about to turn three. We had visited six pre-schools, three of which were the 'most well known' Montessori's in Palos Verdes and San Pedro but somehow never felt comfortable with the thought of trusting any of these schools with our daughter, Siena. In fact, just the opposite, we were pretty disappointed in what we had experienced and were ready to settle for the mediocre. Had it not been because of the mid-afternoon traffic on Rolling Hills Road, we would have probably never had the good fortune of finding Rolling Hills Montessori.

My wife and I view pre-school as very critical in a toddler's development and much more than a glorified day care. Years at pre-school are short but extremely formative years where toddlers need a tremendous amount of nurturing and support to build their self worth, confidence and social skills. We approached our search for a pre-school with that in mind. Our highest priority was to make sure that she received the personal attention necessary for her development, that the school had our daughter's best interest in mind and provided her with a nurturing environment for her growth.

Siena has been at RH Montessori for a year now and we can say without hesitation that Siena's progress and our experience with the school and the staff have been nothing short of "wonderful". Michelle Collins, her entire staff and the school have more than met our expectations in terms of what we had hoped for in a pre-school. We could not have asked for a better group of people to enter Siena's life on a daily basis. We can honestly say that we feel very comfortable and proud to leave Siena at RH Montessori everyday. Getting up every morning and going to school is not a chore but a pleasure. Michelle has always been there to discuss any concerns or decisions regarding Siena. One of the things that continues to impress me is the level of communication between Michelle and her teachers regarding every student. I sometimes get the feeling that Siena is the only student at the RH Montessori. Michelle pays close attention to every child and does not miss a beat. She is on top of everything. I really think that Michelle cares for every single one of her students and keeps up with their individual needs. Most important is the nurturing environment at RH Montessori. Children are encouraged and given the opportunity to do their best.

We have also met very wonderful parents and have built friendships that we believe will last for a long time. The combination of caring teachers, supportive environment and a great group of parents make RH Montessori one of the best pre-schools if not the best on the hill.

There are twice as many children at RH Montessori as when Siena started last year and for a good reason. I heard someone who visited the school put it this way: "They know what they are doing at RH Montessori." I agree wholeheartedly. The waiting list for the school will be long soon.

Thank you Michelle and Mishele, Siena's teacher in Room 1. Keep up the good work!

Nader & Vanessa Ghaderi
Parents - 2009

My son has made great progress since he started RH Montessori. He has become an avid reader, and his language skills have improved. He has a better grasp of math concepts, even getting adjusted to pre-multiplication skills. He also has enjoyed the additional classes in violin and acting. As one of the older students, he is taking more of a leadership role for the younger classmates. Michelle Collins and the entire staff at RH Montessori have been wonderful. They work patiently with each student, providing the tools for them to flourish and to work independently at their own pace. There is no doubt in my mind that RH Montessori is teaching Anthony the academic, social, and extracurricular skills for his future.

Chen Family
Parents - 2009

From the quality of the teachers to the clean and charming campus, Rolling Hills Montessori surpasses my expectations every day. My son is treated with respect and integrity. His teacher understands the developmental stages and never fails to offer an encouraging word or suggestion. Not only does she greet my son with love, she offers me an enormous understanding smile every day. Entrusting my child in someone else's care is scary and overwhelming, but not at Rolling Hills Montessori. After I drop him off, I feel relieved and excited at the prospect of all the exciting new opportunities for learning and developing.

Michelle Collins has created a school dedicated to nurturing the emotional, intellectual, and social development of children. It is a wonderfully diverse community of children and parents who all share the common goal of providing the best for our children.

Cindy Shortt
Parent - 2009

Why Rolling Hills Montessori?

As parents of three children, we know that every child is different. When my wife and I looked for a pre-school for our youngest child, we wanted to explore all our options. Entering the campus, you immediately notice the lush grounds, with a large lawn area positioned under very mature trees, which provide ample shade and lots of room to play in the playhouse, hide-and-go-seek, and kicking balls.

Upon meeting with the school's director, Michelle Collins, we could feel her genuine enthusiasm, passion and commitment to provide the proven Montessori teachings, along with a loving and nurturing learning environment. The staff is very seasoned and enthusiastic with their teaching methods. Their motto, "Every Child is Special" really rings true based on what we have seen. It does not matter whether your child is 2.5 years old, or is 4.5 years old learning their numbers, phonetic alphabet and handwriting, the learning is customized to suit your child at his/her pace and learning style.

The great thing about the classroom setting is the mixed age of the students. This allows the older children to be put into confidence building leadership roles. We feel very strongly, about our child learning at his own pace and the mixed age classroom really lends itself to personalized teaching. There is definitely not a broad-brush approach to learning and we both found that very refreshing.

From an administration stand point, Michelle always makes herself available and is extremely approachable to discuss ideas, suggestions or general issues that arise. She uses a "hands on" approach with both parents and students. She even will spend time in the classroom, helping and instructing students. We would have to say, it is really nice when we bring our child to school and we have the smiling and happy faces greet us. Our child loves going to school at Rolling Hills Montessori to learn, have leadership opportunities and make new friends of all ages. Besides the normal curriculum, there is a wide range of choices for extracurricular activities, such as art, science and music, which allow our child to be exposed to so many great learning experiences that are just plain fun.

Even though this campus is in its infancy, we know this school will continue to grow and be extremely successful. Since the Peninsula is a small community, this will not be the "best kept secret" for long. It is only a matter of time before families are waiting in line to send their children to Rolling Hills Montessori.

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to say "thank you" for all the love and support you have shown our family. We feel truly blessed and fortunate to have had the opportunity to experience Rolling Hills Montessori. We can only hope that other families will give their children the opportunity we did.

Fondly,
Michael & Jana Rodich
Parents - 2009