

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to scream my praises for the Looking Upwards Parents as Teachers program. I will call it divine intervention as to how I was connected with the program. When we purchased our home, the couple we bought from had a daughter just a few months older than my little one. The wife connected with the Parents as Teachers program. She raved about the in-home visits as well as the playgroups. Making this appointment was as critical to me as her routine 18 month check up with the pediatrician. I wish I could praise the play groups more, unfortunately, our family calendar has conflicted too often for the playgroups to be a consistent part of our lives. However, on the random off hand chance I am able to attend, it makes me regret our inability to make the groups a staple weekly event in our home.

The home visits, I have adored. We affectionately refer to our contact as Ms. Emily. My daughter asks throughout the month – “Is it time for Ms. Emily to visit?!?!?” Her sweet face gives me a frustrated scowl when I inform her our visit is not today. She also does not hold back when she pouts and shares, “Mom, I really miss Ms. Emily! Can she come soon?” How lucky am I to have another adult in my daughter’s life who, by spending only one hour a month, is able to convey to my daughter how treasured she is?

When I planned our regular meetings with Ms. Emily, I had the expectation someone was coming to teach my daughter. However, what I received instead was far greater. What I never expected, were the benefits I would feel. I sit here fighting back tears as I write this. Although, she is phenomenal with my daughter, I feel I am the biggest beneficiary to the visits from Looking Upwards. The kind words of, ‘You’re doing a great job, Mom!’ can never be heard enough. Ms. Emily’s visits are a shot of serotonin on the days I need it the most. She teaches me small adjustments I can make to be the best Mom to my daughter. I learn how simple variation in play is able to aide in teaching critical skills for my daughter’s education. To the average person, we may just be splashing around in water and painting. However, there are micro lessons present, teaching my daughter how to hold a future pencil, building muscles and growing her ever starving imagination. Therefore, it is not my daughter who is being educated, it is me. I learn how to be the best primary teacher for my daughter. These sessions have aided me with identifying what milestones are next not just academically but also physically. My life and my ability to parent to my fullest potential I can be, have been greatly improved by Parents as Teachers.

In a world where positive connections are needed more than ever, we are so blessed that someone connected us with Parents as Teachers and brought Ms. Emily into our lives.

Best wishes,

Ashleylachell Rau