

A Reflection on the Year

By Andrea Young

I can't believe Mon Jardin has turned 1!

As with all new babies, turning a year old is a big deal. And, as every parent knows that first year is full of excitement, exhaustion, learning, love, change and new beginnings. As a parent who has had a child enrolled in Mon Jardin nearly the entire year of their existence, I have had the privilege of experiencing all that the first year of life of this center

Excitement

My daughter started in the infant room and received a warm welcome from some very special teachers. Their practical and personal experience with small children was comforting. From the first day through today my personal choices for my child, like dietary requests, are listened to and adhered to. It was very comforting to be able to sit in the mornings with her and chat with the teachers and build quality relationships.

Exhaustion

I am sure I will never quite know how much time, effort and sweat the owners and staff have put in to get the center up and running and maintained. I know what it takes to run a business and sometimes, as they say, "It ain't easy!" The place is always very clean, well manicured and operating like a machine. You can tell that many have put in endless hours to make the center what it is today and for that I am grateful.

Learning

Basic sign language, colors, counting, animal sounds, going potty.....all before the age of 2! It has been great to have a center that is an extension of home in that what we are teaching our child at home is nurtured and continued daily at school. It is more than a place that just offers care for your child.

Love

We have come into some pretty special relationships as a result of being a part of Mon Jardin. It is great to be a part of a place where you share similar hopes and desires with other parents. I also love the diversity and multi-cultural environment that has become Mon Jardin. My daughter is in class with kids that are all coming from different life experiences and cultures and I highly value that.

Change

With being a parent that has been part of the center since the beginning I have had to see some of the growing pains that the center had to grow through. We have had to say "good-bye" to some fabulous founding teachers and administration. But it wouldn't be life without change. And, as we have said "good-bye", we have also said "hello" to new staff that hold our children's best interest in high regard.

So, here is to a year of life Mon Jardin! Here is to a year of excitements, exhaustion, learning, love and change. And, here is to a year of new beginnings! New ideas, new students, new hopes, and dreams. We are entering into the toddler years, you know, and with that come bumps and bruises but also huge milestones, big accomplishments and buckets of knowledge. So close your eyes, make a wish, blow out your candle and get ready for this New Year!

