

My name is Jill Turpin, I have two daughters who currently attend the Cottage School, age 5 and 3. I have been a cottage school parent now for 3 years and I am reminded on a daily basis of the benefits the school has on my children. The first year my daughter was at the school I was very pleased with the general principles of the program and also the care the teachers provide for their students. I was impressed with the attention to every detail of my child's day from the greeting of the students, slipper wearing during school time, hearty and healthy lunch, and the schools holistic approach to their young learning environment. I admired the respect for the limited nature around them, from the gravestones in the cemetery outside the building, to the trees in their play area. The school uses their small space with continuous courtesy to the church and the neighborhood around them. They also beautified the space with plantings and the garden that each child is allowed to spend time in and experience the growing cycle of a vegetable garden, from the planting to the harvest.

Going deeper however, the actual class time brought things home like counting in Spanish, folk dancing steps, a love of pastels and watercolors, countless songs and poems and little tidbits of the life and history of the Mayans, Romans and ancient Greece (this is all before the age of 5). Another aspect of the Cottage School that impressed me early on was the "special class" that each student does twice a year, whether on any subject for the young ones, or an assigned subject for the older ones, the idea that children get up in front of their teachers and their peers to talk about a subject they either love or have researched and learned, is incredible for kids of this age!

This is, of course, my first experience with my Childs young education, but as a parent, to see the love of knowledge, curiosity of lifestyles, and general love and enthusiasm for such a range of wonderful teachings, makes me incredibly grateful to the Cottage school. I have enjoyed being a parent at this school for my children, but for myself as well. The school often offers interesting and wonderful adult lessons and seminars. From tango lessons to child discipline articles, the schools mission seems to educate the parents as well as the students. The parent participation is heartfelt and sincere and a wonderful way to see a little bit of the " behind the scenes" of the school.

Clearly I am very satisfied with my experience at the Cottage School and as I said, I am now entering my third year as a school family. It is perhaps now more the ever though, that I fully understand and can see the extended benefits the school has had on my daughter. I am sure there are other wonderful schools out there but my time here at the Cottage School has exceeded my expectations! I would love to see this special program grow because I feel like, in the right environment, the potential could be limitless. I feel so certain that the way the school respects every aspect of it's students environment, so too do they respect the physical environment as well.