

## **Abel Tomatis, PhD, Licensed school psychologist**

"I am a licensed child psychologist and a licensed school psychologist, and have close to 30 years of experience working with children of all ages. I mention this merely to emphasize how pleased I was with Country Day School of Arlington (CDSA) during the time my daughter attended there, as both a parent and a professional who works with children and educators.

Starting with the leadership provided by Ms. Joyce Hunt, whose genuine passion for her job was exhibited daily in her interactions with all the children at CDSA, the school and its staff consistently met or exceeded my expectations for providing a safe, supportive environment for all the children, many of whom came from diverse backgrounds, and with different experiences and abilities.

During my daughter's time at CDSA, I regularly saw many of the best practices I train school personnel on, already implemented as part of the school's curriculum. Seeing how closely aligned the school's culture and climate were with recommended best practices for both daycares and educational environments, immediately put me at ease when I enrolled my daughter at CDSA, and endeared me that much more strongly to the school.

My daughter's behavioral, emotional, and academic growth while at CDSA were simply remarkable. From her eagerly sharing with me what she was learning each week, to her exhibiting at home the standards of conduct taught at CDSA (be gentle, share, tell the truth, treat others with respect, etc.), seeing her blossom while she went there was an amazing experience. In addition, the many extra-curricular activities available at CDSA also allowed my daughter to explore her interests and develop new skills, making her time at the school a wonderful opportunity to further her intellectual, social and emotional development.

In summary, as both a parent and a professional, I cannot recommend Country Day School of Arlington highly enough! I truly wish more schools were like CDSA, in terms of not just simply following best practices when it comes to the academic, social/behavioral and emotional support of children, but also embodying these expectations in the culture and climate of the school itself, starting with the staff exemplifying these values in their words and actions, and sustained through the love, attention and support they give to all the children in their care.

I give CDSA an enthusiastic A+!!!!"

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