

Jennifer Montgomery

April 18, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

For the past three years I have worked at Three Languages Preschool as both lead and assistant teacher in various groups. I was hired after completing a two year placement as a Native English Speaker instructor in Spain. I liked working in Spain very much and I enjoyed my placement there. One of my primary reasons for leaving was that I wanted to be a lead teacher for a group of children that I could get to know, rather than a specialist teacher who visited many classrooms. It was at Three Languages Preschool that I got my wish and got the opportunity to blossom as a teacher.

What attracted me to the school when I was pursuing new jobs was their devotion to language immersion. The goal of the school is to immerse children while they are developing language skills in the three target languages, which is provided by native speakers. Children are with teachers for a half a day. Within the block of the day, children are instructed in structured lessons in the teacher's native language. By having the day structured this way we are able to create an atmosphere of full language immersion. Also, because we are conducting classes in our native language there are fewer instances of reverting to the children's native language, which typically occurs when a second language is taught by non-native speakers. It is a natural approach to teaching, so much so that it doesn't feel like I teach English, but that I am teaching more or less as I would if I were in the United States.

The first year that I worked we used an American curriculum that focused on crafts and did not include a lot of variety in the type of activities. At the end of the year we were asked to give input on the programs to use. The curriculum that I used the second and third year was a different American program, but a much better fit for my teaching style. Having a voice in the curriculum used the past two years has been immensely satisfying. My enjoyment in teaching content that I like and feel is worthwhile spills over so that it affects the children's attitude toward learning. It is also nice to feel that my opinion and input is appreciated.

As the school has grown, both in grade levels and in the number of students the Anna Maliszewska has striven to create a professional and organized group of teachers. After my first year of employment she realized that she needed reorganization and more structure. In addition to changing the English curriculum, she also implemented changes that would better organize the curriculum of all three languages so that we were more coordinated as a team. The content taught within each grade is organized so that the overall theme and content is the same in all three languages. Teachers meet once a week in order to coordinate and plan curriculum (so that lessons are complimentary not repetitive), holidays, special events, and concerns.

It has been a wonderful learning experience working at Three Languages Preschool. It has been an ideal jumping off point for a starting teacher. As the school has grown, expanded, and evolved I have

had the added experience to mature and become more organized as a teacher. My current 5 year group is mostly children that I have been teaching for the past three years, and it will be sad to see them continue on to elementary school. However, they have made me feel proud since they are all reflections of the passion I have for teaching. I have had a wonderful time in Warsaw, but like my group of five years I sense it is time to move on.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Montgomery