



Empowering Your Child

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At Water of Life our mission and goal is to help you help your child grow and develop in the best possible way. Our focus is on the whole child. This includes helping your child gain foundational skills in not only academic or cognitive development areas, but also includes important growth in character development. This character development is a crucial part of building the skills that your child will use for a lifetime.

Some key components of these life-skills are independence, self-reliance, and self-confidence. These positive character traits become a part of your child through accomplishment. As your child participates in classroom activities, he or she will have the opportunity to acquire many new abilities.

Gaining these life-skills can be a great team effort between parents and teachers while your child is at school. Encouraging your child to carry his or her own backpack to and from the car is a wonderful way to communicate to your child that you have confidence in his or her ability to be independent and self-reliant. This is a powerfully affirming message from you to your child.

Another very positive and affirming message of your confidence in your child is communicated when your child has the opportunity to show you at the beginning of the school day that he or she can take care of things like a backpack and lunch box. If your child has an opportunity to pull papers or a folder out of his or her backpack, and give those items to the teacher, the result is that your child will have a surge of self-confidence. The more appropriate self-confidence your child has, the more your child will embrace new learning adventures. This is an extremely beneficial component to developing a joy and love of learning.

Drop-off and pick-up time is another opportunity for you as a parent to communicate positive and powerful messages of confidence in your child. As your child is working hard to develop new skills and increased self-reliance, one way to acknowledge this growth is through a more laid-back approach to good-byes and pick-up time. When my youngest was going to Pre-K, I was struck by how quickly she was growing up. And, she really liked her increasing independence and ability to do things for herself. For my part, I found that I missed the time when she was still at home and was my little munchkin. In fact, when it was time to pick her up from school, I was so happy to see her that I really wanted to just swoop her up and carry her. She quickly made me realize that she was becoming a big girl, and that she wanted and needed me to treat her like one. So, a big smile and hug were very good ways to show her that I was proud of her and was happy to see her, she didn't need (or want) me to fuss over her or carry her. It was a powerful growing time for her (and for me!).

It's an exciting time for your child, your child will go through some amazing and wonderful changes this year. With your loving support, your child is taking steps towards skills and achievements that both of you can be proud of.