



Staten Island Children's Museum Tot's Time Program "Graduate" Ready for Success in Pre-K

For more than 2 years, Theresa and Tony Rodriguez attended the Staten Island Children's Museum Tot's Time Program with their grandson Charlie Pantofel. "We absolutely love the Children's Museum," said Theresa. "It's a giant playhouse that feels like home."



During the Tuesday and Thursday Tot's Time Program, the trio would explore the variety of activities: working at the tables, which let kids, paint, use clay or build with Legos; enjoying craft and story time; and singing songs. "The dinosaur song at the end of class was always a big hit!" Theresa recalled.

Charlie recently "graduated" from Tot's Time and is currently enrolled in a Pre-K program. Theresa noted that his new teacher personally reach out to her to tell her how impressed she is with Charlie's skills and social engagement in the class.

"There are so many positives that Charlie was able to take away from Tot's Time," said Theresa. "He entered Pre-K and can write the entire alphabet. The Program was also a huge help in getting him prepared to read. Even the fun activities – such as the craft time – were all geared toward learning and would include learning about colors, letters and shapes."

In addition to the academic preparation, learning classroom behaviors is something that is integral to Tot's Time and also benefitted Charlie, according to

Theresa. “Being in Tot’s helped him to learn patience, taking turns, sharing and making new friends.”

And because of the safe and nurturing environment of the Program and, as Theresa noted, the “professional and cuddly” guidance of former Pre-K teacher and Tot’s Time educator Miss Margaret, when it came time to move up to Pre-K, Charlie was more than ready to go.

However, the Program was appreciated for what it gave the grandparents as well. “This was an enriching experience for all of us – we never missed a week,” said Theresa. “The time we got to spend with him and all of the friends we made there is priceless. I cherish my friendships and that part of the experience as well.”

Even though Charlie has moved on to the next phase of his educational path, Theresa notes that they are still frequent Children’s Museum visitors and they still try and get to Tot’s Time when school is closed.



“Everything about the Program is just precious – it’s very safe and comforting as the little ones are starting out. The Children’s Museum is a great place and we are so happy that we get to share it with our grandson.”

About Tot’s Time

Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm / \$6 additional per child

Play in learning centers, listen to stories and create artwork! Our classroom setting helps develop social skills while having fun. Ages 2 – 4. Register at the front desk on the day of your visit.