

## 2003 KOC Parent Survey

### Comments Summary

Parent responses were generally positive about the teachers, director, facility, etc. Parents were “satisfied” or “extremely satisfied” on more than 90% of the responses to the survey questions. The written comments addressed questions about (1) education (curriculum, napping, and field trips), (2) staffing, (3) staff, (4) volunteer hours, (5) procedural and (6) miscellaneous comments.

#### 1. Education:

##### *Curriculum*

- I don't think the kids are being challenged enough. They should be learning how to write their name.
- I do not see very much educational work going on in the classroom
- I would like to see less video watching on rainy days. I believe other events would be more instructive and FUN and would love to help if necessary.
- Babies in the starfish room should be taken outside more often and for longer periods of time.
- There is a good variety and number of toys for the infants in the Starfish room, but we would suggest creating a library of (board) books to foster reading time with the infants.
- I would like the school to regularly schedule conferences with parents.

##### *Napping*

- I think for the older children the naptime is too long. One hour with 30 mins reading would be better, especially in Miss Sarah's class. Going from 2.5 hours nap to zero in Kindergarten is quite a large difference.
- A non-napping room would be great – or shorter naptime.

##### *Field trips*

- Not enough field trips.
- More on campus field trips would be nice.
- I wish there were more frequent field trips.
  - We are enrolled part-time and have only been on one field trip, which was very nice.

#### 2. Staffing:

- There seem plenty of caretakers (teachers and aids) but the number of them makes it hard to get to know them and feel a sense of consistency.
- I would like to hear more about how student teachers are trained. Some seem very engaged with the children while other do not – standing talking to each other on the play ground or in the classroom. I understand time for the children to be engaged with each other, but it is also important for the teachers to be engaged with the children.
- I am very happy with the discipline and staff levels but feel teacher absences make a difference. I understand it is just a fact of life.
  - KOC's low teacher turnover rate is impressive. I like my child to be at a school where the teachers enjoy their jobs.
  - The student aids are fantastic. I like that both women and men work in these roles. I'm also please that the aids seem to like working at KOC, and work there for years! The consistency is so beneficial for our young kids.
  - We are extremely pleased with the quality of care
  - I have enrolled my child at KOC because of...ratio of teachers to children

### 3. Snacks

- More healthy foods
- Snacks provided are LOADED with many empty carbohydrates which provide little nutritional value. I would like to see more FRESH fruits and vegetables offered. Yes, it's more preparation, but we seem to have the staffing available.
- Our child is a picky eater, and doesn't like many 'kid favorites' such as chicken nuggets. The selections don't always seem to be very healthy but I understand there is no point in serving food that the children won't eat.
- Exchanging candies for holidays should be discouraged.
  - Love the Bon Appetit option!
  - Good variety and nutritional value of snacks!
  - I love the hot lunch program. One day a week is a perfect break from packing a lunch. The meals look healthy and well-balanced, and my child really likes them.

### 4. Volunteer Hours:

- Please make it easier to fulfill volunteer hours – i.e., make it more clear and obvious just how to fulfill these hours.
- It would be nice to have more opportunities to be involved with the children instead of the mechanics of running the school (clean-up, fundraising, etc.). I understand that this is not possible for many of the working parents, but it may be nice for those with a flexible schedule. It feels strange not to know the children my son goes to school with.
- Let's find a new name for the "volunteer" hours. I was surprised to get a phone message stating that I would have to pay a fine in my hours weren't completed by the end of the week. I hardly call that a voluntary activity! How about using an alternative, such as 'participation hours.'
- We were confused about our volunteer commitments initially. Would it be possible to see a list of scheduled parent involvement days at the beginning of each year to facilitate our schedules and planning?
- The handbook is not clear about the parent involvement/volunteer commitments required of each family. As parents of the Starfish room, it was confusing to read/hear about clean up days and volunteer hours (which do not apply to us). Debby's letter to parents on Feb 10, 2003 DID make it clear. Perhaps you can update the handbook with an excerpt from the Feb 10 letter.
- Make some adjustment in volunteer commitment for part-time students.

### Procedural:

- A calendar would be helpful for planning purposes.
- The handbook does not adequately address parental requirements and opportunities to collect hours. The process appears vague and notices for clean-up days not given in enough advance.
- An "orientation" would be very helpful for incoming parents to go over things in detail.
- Could use a little help with this survey!
- For the teachers, what does it mean, "Planning for program?"
- Meetings could be more meaningful if there were speakers after the general meeting. Campus professors could be good resources.
- Survival kids were VERY well run. However, a bit uncomfortable delivering kits to rooms – woke up a lot of partially dressed students. Can they be delivered to the mail room or left at the front desk with a note on each door?

- As a new parent I was lost on survival kit day. “Every man for himself!”
- The survival kit days are perfectly organized. I only would suggest that the packers arrive a bit later because shopping always takes longer than the allotted time.
- Survival kit organization: someone should be in charge of delivering kits only. Now someone invests 5 hours of time, someone only 2.
- Communication (from the board) doesn't seem to be very much
- Not enough enforcement of the late fines policy
  - Clean-up and survival kit days are good ways to get to know other parents at the school.

#### Miscellaneous

- We think the new facility is nice looking. Although it is sad that many elements were overlooked, such as the silence requirement in the hallway and the inconvenient access to playground through the hallway.
- It seems as though not all classrooms were designed to the same degree of practicality. As a result. Some rooms don't meet the needs of teachers and students as efficiently and well as others.
  - Overall KOC is a wonderful place.
  - We are so grateful for the quality of care you all provide our child. Thank you very much.
  - Our child has only been with KOC for four months but we are extremely satisfied with the school. Our child loves it there and has made a lot of progress.
  - This form was very hard to do. I wanted to check off extremely satisfied! But the board and teachers already know how happy the parents are. I assume the form is to give opinions that might be helpful because there is always room for improvement.
  - Excellent – no complaints.
  - I have enrolled my child at KOC because of...flexible scheduling.
  - KOC's flexibility in scheduling is a big plus.
  - We are extremely pleased with the program, the director, the teachers and the students. Our criticisms are small.
  - Overall we are very happy at KOC! Terrific program and staff. For the most part my child looks forward to going to KOC each day!
  - Please take my comments with a grain of salt. If nothing changed I would still feel my son is going to the best pre-school/day care available.