***What words would you use to describe your child and why?***

“Curious” and “vivacious” best describe our son Camden. Camden is bright, naturally inquisitive, and eager to learn how everything around him works. When faced with something new, be it a new toy, a class, or a new food – we see the wheels churning in his mind as he investigates what’s before him, and more excitingly to him, what adventures lie ahead. Camden constantly impresses us with his ongoing energy and enthusiasm. Whether he is attending a class or on a playdate with friends, he is the first to jump in and get the activities started. Camden is incredibly outgoing and is jokingly referred to as the “greeter” in our building, as he walks around every morning giving each employee a high-five and acknowledging them by name (or the toddler version of their name). Camden has an insatiable zeal for life and can light up a room with his smile, infectious laugh and playful personality.

***What do you hope your child gains from his/her preschool experience?***

The right learning environment has the potential to positively influence all areas of Camden’s development: physical, social /emotional, and cognitive. Particularly for preschool, we are looking for an environment that allows Camden to mature, experiment, learn, and gain confidence in his abilities. Since preschool is a time for social adjustment, we believe Camden will thrive in a classroom that promotes and reinforces the learning experience through a wide range of interactive activities and endorses independence, individuality and creativity. To that end, we hope that he gets exposed to a classroom that is not only play-based, but one which also includes music, art, science and literature. We believe this balanced approach will advance Camden’s development such that he learns to use his imagination, asks meaningful questions, problem solves and learns to work well in group settings.

Since joining the Playgroup at Temple Israel this year, we have already seen significant developmental changes in Camden. Specifically (and potentially most importantly), we have watched him embrace separating from both Mommy and his caregiver. His vocabulary has also improved such that he can express himself more clearly, and he has formed social connections that are starting to become meaningful. He now comes home from “school” and excitingly tells us about ‘what he did’ and ‘who he did it with’. This has been a great experience for our family thus far, and we look forward to seeing Camden continue to grow in this environment.

***Does your child have any particular strengths or areas of concern that you would like to bring to our attention?***

We have been fortunate that Camden’s expressive language skills developed quickly, and as of today, nearly 90% of what he says is intelligible. He has begun to use three to five word sentences and his expressive vocabulary has increased to around 300 words. He is learning to differentiate between concepts (e.g., single/plural, big/little, go/stop, etc.) and can now follow two-part directions (e.g., get a cookie and milk). He has begun to ask questions like “Why” or “Why not?” and is starting to be able to follow simple story lines in books or videos.

Although Camden’s communication skills are strong and he is generally able to express himself, he is still learning to cope with his own feelings, particularly those stemming from his recent realization that he is a separate individual from Mommy and Daddy. We look forward to him attending preschool where he will continue to develop his language skills, further develop his sense of independence, and gain more experience working with his peers in a group setting.