



Warm Welcomes

M.W. Story 25

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If you're a young student walking into The Grove, you'll likely enter the building (carrying a backpack as big as you, no doubt) and eagerly prepare for Julie Johnson's signature high five. As the school director, she is a beacon of light on preschool mornings. Her warm welcome melts away the stressors of getting to school felt by children and parents alike. Julie knows every child by name and genuinely cares about their well-being. Her ability to remember details about people's lives allows her to ask sincere questions. If she senses some hesitation or distress upon arrival, she finds a way to quickly neutralize it – usually with a compliment or relevant life question. More often than not, it works!



As a parent, I am extremely comforted knowing that my children are in good hands while away from them. The preschool program is built on over 50 years of experience with a collaboration of teachers and aides, many of whom used the program for their own young families. Julie is at the center of it all, pouring countless hours and heartfelt prayers into this school. It certainly does not go unnoticed by parents. My family is in our fourth year here, and I wouldn't think of taking them anywhere else. The staff feels like family, and Julie has been a constant source of knowledge, understanding, and encouragement as I continue to navigate this beautiful, chaotic



journey of motherhood. Naturally, my story and experience is similar to others who walk through these same doors. I asked some parents and teachers a couple questions, and many were eager to participate, showing their love and appreciation. While we were unable to survey everyone in this community, it's likely the same sentiment is felt by all the families that walk through the halls of The Grove.



Woodbury Preschool at The Grove 2018-19 Staff

How has Julie positively impacted your experience at The Grove?

Julie cares about the kids. She will do anything for the program. She works endless hours to make sure everything goes smoothly each day. – Jenny D.

Julie Johnson answered a call to be the Director of the preschool, and my family and I are thankful for that. Her dedicated leadership over the years has likely impacted our experience in so many more ways than we could ever realize. – Elizabeth W.

Julie has had a huge impact on our program. She truly wants the very best for the children, parents and staff and deeply cares about the success of the Preschool. She is great at learning all the rules and policies that we need to follow and teaches us how to implement them. She will always stop what she is doing and will help out. – Luci D.

She is so kind and always helpful! Her door is always open and she truly cares about the children and families. – Sara H.

She has lead the program through so many required rule changes and still kept the personal feeling it has. – Betsy S.

Julie has been such a wonderful part of our Woodbury Preschool experience. She is always available to answer any and all of my questions. Never leaves a message or email unanswered and as a parents, that is crucial. My kiddos always look forward to giving Julie high-fives in the morning. Even if the kiddos are "not in the mood", Julie makes it an effort to start their day off positive and with a smile. – Lindsay L.

She is organized and involved in every aspect of the school. She is especially concerned about the health and safety of the environment. – Sharon M.

Julie helped provide a loving, caring and structured environment for my three little kids when we as a family needed it most. Now I'm lucky enough to work at the preschool and help care for other people's children. I'm so thankful to Julie for the opportunity to be a part of her team. – Sheré K.

That welcoming High Five every morning is a highlight of the day for Brayden! Julie has such a welcoming and positive attitude and lets the kids know that she is genuinely happy to see them. Not only is she great with the students, but she always finds the answer to questions thrown her way and makes sure you're comfortable with whatever the outcome is. – Brittany H.

She is willing to do anything to help our family. – Mark H.

She always made my family feel welcome, loved and well cared for. If there was ever an issue, she would bend over backwards to help and make it right. As my boss, she is caring, understanding and 100% supportive of me putting my family first. – Renee H.

Her morning welcome and asking about my children (present and past attendees) by name. – Tracy D.

Julie goes above and beyond to make each family and child feel welcome and cared for at The Grove. Knowing every child's name and greeting them with a high five each school day is so much more than a director's duty and Julie does it with sincere enthusiasm. We are so thankful to be a part of The Grove family under Julie's caring direction. – Kate B.

Julie is so passionate and in love with what she does. She has a lot on her plate yet is ready to help at the drop of a hat— with ANYTHING! And when she steps in to help it's 110% effort with attention to detail. Nothing is missed. I think it stands out so much for her to be welcoming everyone into the building every single morning and greeting each kid BY NAME with a high 5. She's truly something special. – Alix B.

She is organized and involved in every aspect of the school. She is especially concerned about the health and safety of the environment. – Sharon M.

Julie greets all the kids (current and past students) and adults by name with big smiles. She remembers and asks about events in our lives; it is clear that she genuinely cares about each and every student. She alleviated my concerns and fears over having my daughter with multiple, severe food allergies separate from me and start preschool. – Mary R.

When our daughter started preschool, she had a hard time separating. Julie called me during the day to let me know she was doing fine and stopped crying right after I left. That small gesture is a perfect example of how thoughtful and involved Julie is with the parents and children. She comes early and stays late. Her devotion shows in everything she does. – Robyn M.

What do you enjoy
about Woodbury
Preschool at The
Grove

She is so kind and always helpful! Her door is always open and she truly cares about the children and families. – Sara H.

I'm a lifer of the program, having been a student when I was in preschool and still having fond memories, I knew it was the only place I wanted Brayden to attend. I enjoy the approach-ability of the staff and teachers and the overall welcoming nature of the school. – Brittany H.

Cheerful, friendly environment. – Sharon M.

I love the small size and family feel from all of the teachers, staff, parents and students. – Lindsay L.

Great small class sizes to build bonding relationships with the children. The parents are supportive and understanding. The staff is awesome-great friendships! We LOVE the children! We are always helpful, kind and encouraging to each other and work well together. We can be creative in our classroom. – Luci D.

Everything! - the caring teachers and wonderful families, the sweet adorable artwork cheerfully brightening the hallways and the engaging activities that are planned year round for the students. Woodbury Preschool at The Grove is a gem. – Elizabeth W.

We feel like family here! – Betsy S.

Teaching with hearts for Jesus – Mark H.

Before joining the staff, our children attended the programs at Woodbury Preschool. We were immediately impressed with the sense of community. Before long, everyone knew our children's names and greeted us warmly each day. Gathering time provides the opportunity to pray over and with the kids. Starting our day with a prayer changes everything! – Robyn M.

Its family atmosphere. We were instantly treated like family when my children came to school here, and I definitely feel that now as an employee. It's clear that I am part of something truly special. – Renee H.

WPG feels like a family. The children come first. The staff is amazing. – Jenny D.

I love the big smiles and warm welcomes by name. WPG goes above and beyond to address any concerns and to help the transition to preschool go smoothly. – Mary R.

She has lead the program through so many required rule changes and still kept the personal feeling it has. – Betsy S.

My favorite thing about being at our preschool is, of course, the kids! And of course my amazing co-workers! – Sheré K.

Friendly, positive, caring, safe environment. – Tracy D.

The loving nature of the teachers and the fun curriculum for the kids. – Kate B.

I've always felt so welcome and appreciated! Both as a parent of children attending and as an employee. I feel part of a family here, and know I have a huge support system for when those parenting moments get so hard. Someone is ALWAYS willing to help. And you can't walk 5 feet without seeing a smile or getting a hello. This preschool has been one of the best things to ever happen to my family is a multitude of ways. – Alix B.

It feels like our second home. We love seeing all the lovely familiar faces of teachers and parents and children. The environment is very warm and friendly and most importantly all 3 of my kids love it there. It has prepped them for grade school and we will be sad when all the kids are too old to go to The Grove! – Sara H.

