



Phoenix Preschool Receives Highest Rating From Quality First

November 23, 2015

November 23, 2015 - PRESSADVANTAGE -

Summit School of Ahwatukee, an NAEYC preschool in Phoenix, AZ, is proud to announce that they have received the highest possible rating for early childhood programs from Quality First. They believe that this is a true testament to the high quality of the preschool's curriculum, and the knowledge, experience and talents of the school's leadership and exceptional teachers.

"A 'five star' distinction means that after a thorough evaluation by Quality First, a preschool program 'far exceeds quality standards'," says Kathy Konrad, the Admissions and Marketing Director at Summit School of Ahwatukee. "As an early childhood program that has been accredited by NAEYC since 2005, we are thrilled to support Arizona's commitment to high quality early education with Quality First," says Andrea Benkel, MaED, the Director of Early Childhood Education at Summit School of Ahwatukee. "Being a five star school is a distinction that brings a great deal of pride and joy to our program. Those stars represent our passion for and commitment to providing exceptional, high quality experiences and opportunities for Summit's youngest students."

During inspection and evaluation, Quality First looks at the experience levels of the individual teachers, the

curriculum of the school, and how well students are supported and assessed. Specifically, they look for learning environments that nurture the emotional, social, language and cognitive development of every child. Receiving five stars also shows positive, consistent relationships between children and teachers. Effectively, it means that children from Tempe, Chandler, Ahwatukee, Gilbert and Phoenix all are able to get the individual attention they actually need.

The school community is also thrilled and supportive. When Summit School of Ahwatukee Preschool announced the highest rating from Quality First on Facebook, people have responded with genuine happiness and praise. "Andrea and the teachers are an amazing gift for sure," says Dina Skentzos Arbogast. "Congratulations!"

Quality First has stringent criteria that preschools and early childhood centers must meet in order to receive the rating. These include health and safety practices, staff qualifications, teacher-child interactions, learning environments, the lessons, the group sizes, child assessment, and parent communication. They use a number of different assessment tools in order to get to their final rating. The tools include Environment Rating Scales (ERS), Classroom Assessment Scoring Systems (CLASS), which is trademarked, and Quality First Points Scale, which is the point scale that they developed themselves. Receiving the 5 star rating from Quality First after this thorough vetting process is a testament to the excellent quality of education that Summit School of Ahwatukee offers. For more information, please visit <http://summitschoolaz.org>.

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For more information about Summit School of Ahwatukee, contact the company here: Summit School of Ahwatukee Kathy Konrad, Admissions and Marketing Director (480) 403-9506 kathy.konrad@summitschoolaz.org 4515 E Muirwood Dr Phoenix, AZ 85048

Summit School of Ahwatukee

Summit School of Ahwatukee is committed to every student's personal and academic growth from the day they enter preschool, until they graduate eighth grade as young adults. The curriculum is research-based and taught by educated and experienced teachers.

Website: <http://summitschoolaz.org>

Email: kathy.konrad@summitschoolaz.org

Phone: (480) 403-9506



