

I'm not exactly sure where to start our story. Our daughter Lilly has been part of the PA Pre-K Counts program offered at the Corry YMCA now for two years. She wasn't old enough to go to Kindergarten this past school year, so we were extremely fortunate for her to be a part of Mrs. Fox & Mrs. Huggler's class again.

My family is your everyday ordinary middle class family who live in a community where your options for care for younger children are limited. Either work so hard to "rob Peter to pay Paul" and send them to a certified daycare or an in-home child care provider where your expectations may not be met.

When the PA Pre-K counts program came to Corry I thought what a wonderful opportunity for our daughter to be able to get a quality education, play with her peers, grow (physically and socially) and my family isn't left with the lingering financial burden of childcare.

Orientation was bitter sweet as we were signing up our little girl for Pre-K, soon our fears left as we saw the big bright smiles from Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Huggler. They were more than welcoming to all of the children and their families. Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Huggler are more than teachers; they have become Lilly's mentors, protectors, and friends and more importantly have become part of our family.



The PA Pre-K Counts program offered through the Corry YMCA has given our daughter so many more opportunities since they are a separate entity from the Corry Area School District. Over the years they have taken several field trips and were able to provide swimming lessons, a lasting life lesson.

Lilly has learned so many different things being part of the PA Pre-K Counts program offered at the Corry YMCA. She has made so many friends of various ages, ethnicities, backgrounds, and gender. We feel this will help her to accept others and be more open minded as she grows.

The program always teaches her a different lesson each week. The majority are actual real world lessons that will only help these children be productive members of our society.

The program has helped her become more individual as she is very proactive when it comes to doing things for herself; examples are getting dressed, pouring her something to drink etc. She reasons through particular situations that she may not be at if she wasn't taught these by Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Huggler. They hold a show and tell every Friday beginning with a particular letter. In the morning I tell her the letter she sounds it out and takes it upon herself to find something that starts with that letter. This skill we haven't seen our son, who is 8, do until 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

I know this is a very lengthy testimonial, but it is difficult to put down a few words about what this program has done for our daughter and even our family. The program has helped our daughter grow in so many different ways I can't even begin to put it down in words. Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Huggler have been instrumental in her development and we are forever grateful to them.

Next step is Kindergarten, which we feel Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Huggler have more than prepared her for. What she isn't prepared for is losing these wonderful teachers as they have been such a huge part of her life.

Meghan, Lilly's mom