

My husband and I cannot say enough about Mrs. Belinda Henderson. We had no idea of what was to come when we walked in her Pre-K 3 classroom for the first day of our daughter's school career. Although we were young parents, we knew that education should be at the top of the list for our daughter. Even more so, we knew that introducing her to Christ was the most important and best gift we could ever give our 3 yr old princess. I did not have a clue that Christ would present his first family present as Mrs. Henderson.

Anyone who has had, or even kept for a period of time a 3 year old knows that there can be some challenges in the area of listening, attention span, and teaching. Now, place about 10 to 15 three year olds in the classroom and, without the right person, it can seem as if a tornado hit that room in 0.2 seconds. Of course, for Mrs. Henderson this was not the case. Each and every time I walked into her classroom the kids sat at their tables as if they had always known how to sit still and listen. I remember them being engaged in whatever lesson she was presenting and my daughter could recite a brief description of her day when she came home.

One scripture I remember the entire class reciting was, "I am who God says that I am. I can do what God says that I can do. I'm above and not beneath. I'm rich and not poor. I'm the head, and not the tail. I'm not sick, but I'm well. I can do all things...I can do all things...I can do all things through CHRIST that strengthens me....Selah!" To tell you the truth at the time I didn't know it was a scripture, I was walking around calling it a poem. And as you can tell I too memorized that scripture. She was teaching us as young parents and even younger Christians through our daughter. The household spiritual growth was rapid during that time and we didn't even know what was happening.

Nothing hit me harder than the day I was volunteering in the classroom and Mrs. Henderson gathered everyone around on the carpet for morning worship. My little baby girl, during worship, closed her eyes and raised her hands to sing a song to Jesus. It wasn't imitation, it was real. My husband also has a favorite memory from the fruits of Mrs. Henderson. One day, after arriving home from work, he was having trouble with his knees. He must have been talking about it because baby girl walked up to him, placed her hand on his knee, and said, "Jesus, please bless my daddy's knee." Later, we found out that whenever someone was hurt in the classroom that Mrs. Henderson made a point to teach the children to pray for each other. We were AMAZED.

The scholastic side of Mrs. Henderson was just as strong. I still keep up with several kids from that very class and each one, in some way or another, is at the top of his/her class to this very day. My daughter, in particular, who is now in the second grade, is reading on a fourth grade level. Her comprehension of all subjects definitely started with her first teacher.

Calling Mrs. Belinda Henderson a good teacher is a definite understatement. She became an intricate part to our child's early development and I highly recommend her to anyone who will listen.

Nicole C. Kelly