

252 Ponce de Leon Street  
Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411  
(561) 333-8054

March 7, 2006

Dear Wendy,

As an elementary school teacher and the mother of two sons, ages 5 and 19 months, I am as much excited about my children's education as the day they were conceived! I recently toured IDEAL and found that your "dream come true" has now become my dream come true! I am absolutely convinced that there is no other learning environment that can provide my children with the sense of self-worth and foundation for life the way IDEAL can.

Upon entering IDEAL, I was first impressed by the schools' beauty. As children passed by along the yellow brick road, I could feel how proud they were of their school - each one eager to share a smile or shake my hand. It made me remember the rewards of teaching children. As we viewed each classroom, there was a visible sense of accomplishment. Students were engaged and happy to be doing so. The opportunity to learn through exploration and have fun at the same time was so exciting! I will always remember that birds have hollow bones!

After touring the school, I couldn't wait to share what I had seen and learned about IDEAL. When friends asked how I liked the school, I had trouble putting my words together. That is how impressed I was and am. When I finally gathered my thoughts, I asked my friends, most of them teachers, to imagine the lesson that you worked so hard to create in hopes that it would grab the attention of ALL your students and KEEP it. Now imagine the entire school day filled with these lessons that incorporate movement, music and art, working together and independently, computers, excitement, and topped off with love. Would you like to know their responses? There weren't any - for a few seconds that is. They too were in awe and impressed by what they had just heard. I have to admit that I, as well as, my friends felt a sense of shame that our traditional classrooms did not include the same amount of excitement and energy that IDEAL does.

Since my visit, IDEAL is constantly on my mind. Just last week, I was watching my 5 year old climb up into the fort in our backyard. As he reached the top and was gazing into the yard, I smiled with thoughts of how much he has grown and who I would like him to grow to be. The union of home and school play a significant role in his growth. It was then that I thought of the cardinal and I created the enclosed poem.

It would be an honor for my children to be a part of the IDEAL family. And for those who have been touched by IDEAL, take flight!

Sincerely,



Alexandra "Ali" Austin