

A PARENT'S STORY

Neha Patel

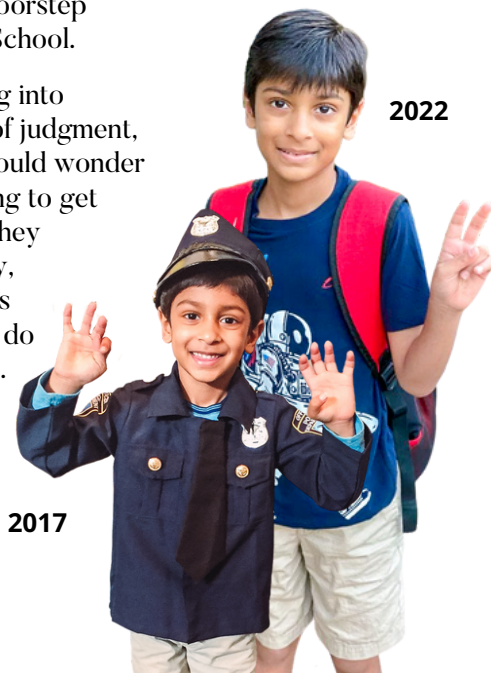
Mom to Kishan
Westview Parent 2017-2022

Dear Friend of Westview,

As I sat down with my three old for his annual pediatrician appointment, I sighed deeply. I had the clipboard on my lap with a pen in my hand ready to fill out the dreaded milestone sheet. The one question that had been perplexing me for the past one to two years stared back at me with mocking eyes: "Does your child have 200 or more words? If not, how many words does your child's vocabulary consist of?" I didn't or couldn't bring myself to put down the answer. I walked into our pediatrician's office with tears and handed over the form, completely distraught as I blurted out, "He only has 20. He has 20 words and most of the time he isn't even using them in the right way. He has no phrases and no sentences. I know he understands, but he constantly hits his head because he is frustrated and trapped in there."

That day is etched in my mind permanently. As you can imagine, and can probably already guess, that was the day that began our circuit of appointments to a developmental pediatrician, numerous therapists, and finally to the doorstep of The Westview School.

I remember walking into Westview scared of judgment, scared that they would wonder what took us so long to get there, scared that they would turn us away, telling us there was nothing they could do for our son, Kishan.



That day in 2017 was anything but what I feared it to be. We were warmly welcomed into Westview as we toured the classrooms and spoke with Becky Mattis in the Admissions Office. I will never forget how Becky pulled out a box of Kleenex, setting it in the middle of the table before we even started speaking. She just knew what I would need and that was the first indication I had that Westview was going to be more than a school for our family. It was a place we would never feel alone in our journey. And, it became our home away from home.

Kishan spent the best five years of his life there, from ECD2 to 2nd grade. He not only expanded his vocabulary way beyond 20 words, he thrived emotionally and behaviorally as well. The entire staff was eager to get to know him and continued to love and care for him like one of their own children. There was never a day where I felt worried at drop-off. And the smiles and confidence that Kishan showed at pick-up was all the proof we needed that the nurturing environment at The Westview School worked.

Even when Kishan would have a not-so-good day, everyone from Ms. Candi at the front desk to his teacher would have his back. They saw his potential and brought it out of him every single day. And, when it was time to mainstream him to a public school after five years at Westview, all hands were on deck to make sure Kishan and our family were supported in order to make a smooth transition.

“ We know we will always be part of the Westview family and can call on them for anything we need. If there is one word that Kishan would use to describe The Westview School, it would be “magical”. And, I would add that it was life-changing for our family. ”

Please consider supporting The Westview School so that many more families like ours can be a part of this life-changing, magical place where their children can thrive to their fullest potential. All of our children and families, thank you.

Neha