

## Magical Journey Learning Center

Creating life-changing development for children

BY BRANDI RAMIREZ

rom an early age, Jessica Spada, has had a passion for expanding her knowledge in creating life-changing development for children. This led Jessica, the owner of Magical Journey Learning Center, to earn her master's degree in early childhood development specializing in working with children from birth through 2nd grade. It was in 2018 that she was presented with the opportunity to take over the Magical Journey Learning Center as she shared, "Originally the school catered to children 3yrs old-2nd grade but as we all know Ahwatukee has amazing public and private schools that cater to schoolaged children. I saw an opportunity to transition MJLC to younger children (1-Pre-K), my area of expertise." It was from that moment on that Jessica began to set her goal into motion creating an early childhood learning facility that incorporates every developmental stage into both academic, social, and emotional development.



With over 5 years of successfully supporting the children of the Ahwatukee community, Magical Journey has empowered so many children with the tools to thrive in life. When asked what creates an inviting and successful environment such as what MJLC offers Jessica shared, "There must be a balance of child and teacher-directed activities. The learning centers must be age-appropriate, inviting and not too cluttered. Learning centers must be rotated to continue to inspire creativity and foster imagination. There must be a balance of outdoor and indoor activities to exercise small and large muscles along with working on coordination."

It goes without saying that MJLC is more than a mundane learning experience for children. Jessica takes pride in developing programs that evaluate each child individually to create a learning environment that promotes fun, growth, and long-term success. Every aspect of the programs offered creates a family environment often incorporating parental involvement in the classroom. Some of the highlights are a lower student-to-teacher ratio, a strategic and well-rounded curriculum, parent events as well as camps offering hands-on and unique activities. Children will be invited to learn, grow and enjoy various activities such as mad science workshops, petting zoos, monthly character development, music and movement classes as well as weekly Spanish classes.

There is no doubt that children are the future becoming the next generation that will enrich the world. It is clear to see that Magical Journey Learning Center embodies the opportunity to create an environment that focuses on developing well-rounded children who care about the world around them. Jessica shares, "Parents truly love the individualized programming that we offer. Their children are thriving and at their own pace and parents feel that is priceless!"

You can learn more about the programs, curriculum and summer camps offered by Magical Journey Learning Center on their website www.magicaljourneylc.org or by visiting their Facebook page.

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