



The Meaning of Coming and Going

March 5th, 2019



Dear Erik and Maverick,

For the last year I have been fortunate enough to watch the two of you coming and going from school together. In the mornings when you arrive I watch as you play together, sit together, or read a book together, as you prepare to say goodbye for the day.

Then, later, after we've played, sung, ate, slept and enjoyed our day... I get to watch you reunite!

Each reunion is slightly different. Erik, I often see you walk quickly over to Maverick and begin to engage in whatever Maverick is doing... I've watched you join him on the slide, over and over, until you can convince him to leave. While you're both wooshing down our big blue slide, Maverick's laughter could be heard by our entire outdoor classroom.

-Kaite



What it means?

Erik,

I was reflecting on children and parents separating and reuniting at school and I thought back to an experience I had while teaching in the preschool. A particular parent several years ago had expressed frustration with their child who didn't want to leave when they arrived at school at the end of day. A co-teacher of mine decided to coach that child to greet his parent, to be excited to see her, and to want to leave school when she arrived... As I was reflecting on this idea, retrospectively I found it backwards. Why did they choose to coach the child into wanting to leave school? We should have coached the parent into connecting with their child as they reunited! This connection and engagement upon your reunion seems so natural and instinctual to you. Your engagement has had all the difference with the way that you separate at the beginning of the day as well as how you come back together at the end of the day.

For me, as an educator, watching your relationship and the thoughtful way that you approach Maverick with arriving and departing from school has been meaningful and transformational for me.

Thank you, Erik.

-Kaite

Opportunities and Possibilities

Erik,

Moving forward, I feel like I will be able to share my reflection with other

parents who are navigating the sensitive time of separation with their children. I will also be able to help parents discover the joy that reuniting at the end of the day can be... just three minutes of engaging in their child's play makes a huge difference!

Times of transition, such as arriving at school and departing from school, can cause heightened emotions for both parents and children. Giving them tools like engaging with a book or joining their child on the slide can help ground everyone during those transitions. The bond that children and parents make through these small windows of connection will grow and strengthen their relationships, as well.

I feel like this reflection that I've pieced together over the last several years will serve me for the remainder career while I work with children and families. Thank you so much for showing me this important lesson through your actions with Maverick. I know it means a lot to him, and I hoping it will mean a great deal to other families, as well!

-In gratitude, Kaite

Family Reflections

Maverick,

I think you're blessed to have a Daddy who puts so much love into all his interactions with you. And just by being yourself, you make Daddy (and me!) happy every day.

Erik,

I appreciate beyond words knowing how much you cherish Maverick. I know you would do anything for him. Seeing this especially reminds me that you can empathize with many of his sensitivities and struggles. You know how hard changes and transitions can be, and you've gone out of your way to make them easier for him. Thanks!

Love,

Mommy

Maverick,

I'm so glad you enjoy the extra time we get to spend together at your school. I enjoy it a lot! I find it very interesting to see how you've been spending your days at school and am so lucky I'm able to be a part of it, even if for only a couple minutes. We are so lucky that you are able to go to school at NCCC which has such wonderful teachers, facilities, and philosophies.

Kaite,

Thanks for the compliment. I'm definitely not the best at accepting compliments, but suffice to say coming from someone with so much experience teaching little ones, it means a lot to me.

- Daddy/Erik