

First day jitters

I am a stay-at-home mom and knew my child would have a bit of a problem adjusting to the change of being away from mommy when he started kindergarten, but it was very dramatic for Ben and me. We went into his classroom and he refused to sit down in his chair. The teacher suggested that I go ahead and leave and that he would be OK, so I walked out and continued to stand in the hallway and listen to his sobs and screaming for me. **Mrs. Colette Myers**, a new kindergarten teacher, hugged him and tried to comfort him as he continued to scream and cry. Down the hallway came a familiar face that I thought Ben would feel more comfortable with – **Mrs. Nan Wash**, the kindergarten aide that Ben had seen many times in the past when I was volunteering at the school. Still no luck. Mrs. Wash knew I was still in the hallway. She asked him if he might feel better if he could give mom a hug and a kiss; of course he thought so at that time. Instead he got a very tight grip and would not let go of me. By that time, the sobs began to get louder in the hallway. Several teachers and staff members arrived trying to comfort Ben. Needless to say, by this time I was an emotional mess. Other parents came to rescue me and help; Mrs. Baniak noticed that I was struggling trying to hold onto the camera I had brought in order to take Ben's picture for his first day of school. She held my camera and consoled me. There was another parent that had tears in her eyes. It was her child's first day of Kindergarten also. She and I consoled each other and I didn't feel so alone.

While Ben continued to cry, someone sent for the principal, **Ms. Schuronda Morton**. Ms. Morton gave Ben a choice of picking some one that he would feel comfortable with. He chose her! I planned to stay around that day and volunteer so that I could be close to him, but the teachers and staff suggested that it would be better for me to leave. He was quiet at that point so I left. It was very hard for me, but I knew I could call anytime and check on him. The secretary, **Miss Sharon Snardon**, really got to know my voice by the end of the day because I called several times. I would ask how Ben was doing and she would tell me he was still with Ms. Morton but he was fine. Ms. Morton's only break from Ben was in the bathroom and she took time to call me and give me an update and advice. The deal she made with him was he could stay with her the first day but he had to go to his class the next day. He followed her every step of the way that very first day!

She also suggested that I let my husband bring him to school the next day – it worked! He went to class with a little bit of hesitation on the second day. We are so grateful for the teachers, staff, parents and most of all Ms. Morton! It is nice to know that your child can feel this way about the leader of their school. We are now into the school year and Ben has made lots of friends and enjoys learning and making things. My husband and I are amazed that Ms. Morton was so helpful and patient with our child, especially considering that the first day of school would have to be one of the busiest days for a school principal. Ms. Morton allowed our child to shadow her for the whole day, but still was able to manage her numerous responsibilities. Her handling of the situation reflected a patient and caring personality, which is what any parent would hope for from the educators of our children. We are truly thankful to have Ms. Morton at our children's school.

Submitted By:

George and Mary Montgomery, Parents