

Mrs. Ritchie and Mrs. Allen's 2-day twos

Mrs. Ritchie is waiting for you!” my son yells each day as he gets helped out of the car in the carpool line. He hops through the door without even looking back at daddy. Is this the same little guy who cried the first couple times I dropped him off last fall?

Back then Mrs. Ritchie told me he might cry for about 10 minutes the first day, maybe a few minutes on day two, and then that would be that. Well, she hit the nail on the head—where does she keep the crystal ball? Thinking back to those first days of school, it’s amazing how much the children have grown and learned over the past six months. All of a sudden, our *babies* are *little kids*!

The two-day 2s are as busy as ever, working on things like colors, emotions and the five senses. They’re also learning how to recognize and read their names. The teachers have each child’s name written on a different colored piece of construction paper, and the children learn to recognize which color goes with which name. But eventually the teachers will write all the names on white paper, and—wouldn’t you know it?—the children recognize the letters and words instead of the colors!

Our bulletin board at home is covered with artwork of every color, and you never know what else might come home in the folder each day. An envelope full of little bits of paper? The children are learning to cut with scissors! Mrs. Ritchie tells me the trick is to hold the scissors with thumbkin on top, open-and-shut them once, and *then* open-and-shut again to cut. Oh, and you have to hold your mouth just right, too!

What a fun year it’s been. There are so many things we’re uncertain about as parents. You never really know if this or that is the *best* thing you could be doing. But for something as important as a child’s first school, how lucky we are to have a place like Duke Memorial Weekday School—a sure thing!



Mrs. Ritchie and Mrs. Hardin's 2-day twos

Just like the flowers and trees outside, Mrs. Ritchie's and Mrs. Hardin's Monday-Wednesday two-day 2s are beginning to blossom.

It is wonderful to know our children are learning new things every day. Today, our children participated in the school's tornado drill. The class also watched a film strip about a caterpillar that in the end turns into a beautiful butterfly.

During free time Caleb, Henry, Chandley, Owen, Kate and Cameron worked together in constructing a tall building-block tower. It reached great heights before finally toppling over (which, of course, was the children's favorite part!)

Quinlan, Emmet and Everett took turns putting hats on their heads and laughing like crazy. Becca Joy and Isabella enjoyed working on their shamrock sticker art. Mrs. Hardin brought in Girl Scout cookies as a special treat for the class. It is amazing how well the children follow directions when Girl Scout cookies are involved!

It's interesting to look back from the first day of preschool to now and realize just how much our little ones have grown. Mrs. Ritchie and Mrs. Hardin have done a great job teaching our children new songs and stories. The students are learning their colors, recognizing their names, painting like little Picassos and so much more. The relationships the children have developed are priceless. We as parents are very thankful to be blessed by such a great school!

