

December 13, 2009  
**“Follow the Star”  
Contest Winner  
Merry Christmas, Ms. Sue!**



“Moms drop their kids off at daycare and babysitters every day, hoping that the people in charge of their babies will nurture and care for them as if they are the most special gift in the world. When I drop Luke and Anthony off I KNOW my boys are loved and nurtured every day by the wonderful staff at Four Seasons. If I could nominate all the ladies that have taken care of my boys over the years you would need a lot of books!

One teacher in particular has loved, cared for, nurtured and treated Luke and Anthony like they are true treasures. “Our Ms. Sue” as she is lovingly referred to around our house has not only had a major influence in the lives of our boys but she has also helped my husband and me to grow, learn and become better parents.

Luke and Anthony were adopted from Russia two and a half years ago at the age of ten months. We received our referral in early February, 2007, and lived in fear that they could be taken away from us by a Russian Family at any time until we landed in the States with our beautiful babies on April 20th, 2007. This fear has made leaving my boys in the care of other people very traumatic at times. Whenever I arrived at Four Seasons to pick the boys up I would feel a sense of panic until I could spot both Luke and Anthony. This feeling has gotten better but I still feel it just a bit!



The love and attention Ms. Sue has shown Luke and Anthony over the years has made me realize that they are in a safe place and that there is someone loving my boys while I am at work. Ms. Sue will send me text messages or pictures of fun things the boys are doing whether it be dressing up or a funny story of the day. On the rare occasion I am out of town Ms. Sue is there to give the boys extra love and cuddles for me. Ms. Sue is helping my husband and me teach the boys what’s important: manners, helping people, sharing, and two very important skills, saying “sorry” and taking responsibility for your actions. In addition to helping us make the boys better people, Ms. Sue is teaching my husband and me to be better parents.

Ms. Sue was there telling me “maybe we should leave the sippy cups at home in the morning”? This scared me, but she was right, they boys could drink out of cups! Ms. Sue was there to tell us “maybe the boys should stop wearing diapers in school” and this started the process of potty training! As I look back at the milestones my boys are reaching, Ms. Sue has been there “whoop whooping” right next to my husband and me.

Ms. Sue is always available to answer our questions, give us parenting advice, provide us with helpful hints, and reassure us that we are on the right track with whatever issue or concern we may have. Over the past two years Ms. Sue has helped our family in so many ways and we are now blessed to not only refer to her as Luke’s teacher, but also our friend.

She is a friend who loves, cares for and educates my boys as if they were her own. Ms. Sue is our Family Christmas Star now and throughout the year!”