

The Parents in the Hall

(...or Why I Love Working at SYC)

After more than 20 years working at SYC, it's become familiar. While the kids struggle with the idea of their parents leaving them at school, Holly and I struggle a little with their parents who gather in the hall—some of them anxious, surprised to be experiencing some separation feelings themselves, and others who would rather be out doing all the things they planned to do when the kids were finally at school, stuck here because their kids still need them. They distract me and s and keep us from getting all the work done!

But the gathering in the hall is such an important part of SYC. It's the beginning of a community—something I don't think a lot of other schools foster much when they shove parents out the door, or at schools where parents remain in their cars when dropping off the children!

Our parents often start with only one thing in common—the choice of a program like SYC for their children. Then the parents start getting to know each other out in the hall while their children are getting to know each other in their classes. Next come carpools and playdates.

And it happens every year. Eventually the hall clears out and all the work gets done. (And truth be told, we're almost lonely without all the parents around to distract us from the boring old paperwork.) By the end of the year the best thing of all is that we know we will see some new best friends—among the parents as well as the kids.

...Adele Stratton, SYC Office Manager