

The Andre Floyd Experience [One mother's perspective]

I have this kid, now he is a teenager. It happened fast. Ever since he was born he had a real clear sense of who he was willing to take direction from and who was not acceptable.

His IQ is off the charts and educating him has been quite a struggle. We have tried private and public options. Now he is finally in High school and is supplementing his quest for knowledge with college classes. At 14 years old I feel he is doing well in a world not suited for him.

Last year when he was still a kid, he had a huge desire to have a guitar teacher. He was already taking piano and thriving. So we started looking around and interviewing people to work with him. No one fit the bill. Most people were too rigid in their teaching and not happy about having this very confident very different child telling them how he would like to learn the info.

Then by chance we heard of Andre Floyd. I personally had heard him and seen him at hot spots in Downtown Kalispell. He could rock the house all night long. It was amazing to me to learn that he was teaching guitar to kids through the Montessori School. I asked all around and only heard positive talk about him. Huge points in my book because he likes kids, he doesn't drink, and he has been all over and chooses to be here in NW Montana where we are. So I asked my son if he would take a chance and go meet him. The rest is history. Not only did they hit it off, but my son felt so at ease with Andre and after only 2 sessions that he gave him one of his most treasured hats, which Andre wears all the time, in public!

Now friendship aside, the quality of how Jay {my son} can handle his guitar and himself since he started working with Andre is remarkable. No exaggeration, Jay sometimes sleeps with his guitar. Andre was so flexible and really a great listener. Jay would spend half of some lessons just sharing music with Andre that he thought was worthy. This is extremely important to a kid that the rest of the world has a hard time understanding due to his intellect. He and Andre covered all types of music and showed up for each other's public performances. Andre even went to Jay's Middle School and played the banjo for the entire school on behalf of Jay. This really helped boost Jay's self esteem with the faculty and the kids. Such a huge gesture and an act of kindness are too big to fully explain.

Jay prides himself on working with Andre and being his friend. He can play most anything by ear now and has a great guitar collection started. It is the highlight of Jay's week to have Andre work with him.

Now I must add that in the course of Jay and Andre becoming friends and student/teacher, my husband and I also came to enjoy any of our time with Andre. We have all enjoyed meals and popcorn and talked about everything. Andre is so kind and well educated that he is a pleasure to be with. I am so happy that he came into our lives.

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