

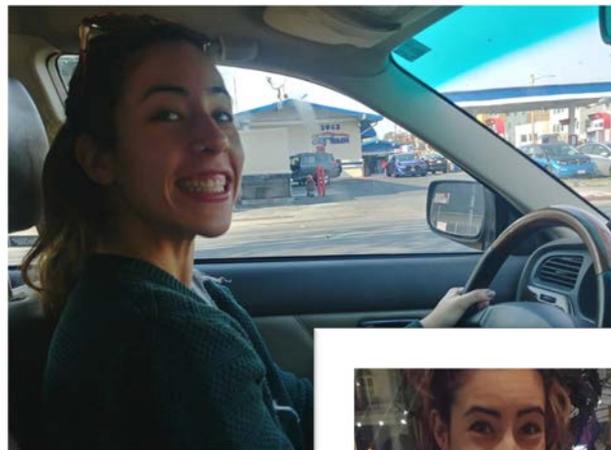
Aikaterini S. from Greece

Nominated by the Papavassiliou family in California



Katerina has been an amazing addition to our family. We had months of corresponding before we even met in person. From our countless exchanges she already had a glimpse into our world and began preparing accordingly; like what favorite activities my daughter has and how she loves art. Katerina started compiling project ideas and would send them to me even months before coming to us. We even had the opportunity to meet Katerina and her lovely family in their home city of Athens prior to her coming to California. She has assimilated rather quickly, not only to America but to our family. From the start she has adapted to our way

of life, our style of child-rearing and to the healthy foods we try to incorporate in our diet. We practice a positive/attachment parenting style with our children. She quickly learned how to engage with our 2nd child who can sometimes exhibit intense emotions and defiant behavior. Katerina attended a workshop with me on how to effectively redirect some of these negative behaviors and she has done so with great success. My little boy is different since Katerina started spending quality time with him, showing him love and patience and simply just playing games with him. In addition, Katerina turns recipes of my children's favorite foods into delicious and healthy alternatives. Right now, she's researching how to make my daughter's beloved breakfast food, the bagel using whole wheat flour and natural sweetener. As a parent nothing makes me happier than this. She often times includes my children in the cooking process which has facilitated a love of cooking and



bonding with Katerina. She also has a very creative eye and engages my children in fun and educational arts and crafts. She saves all items that would otherwise go to waste and creates educational and fun art projects for the children. She's also open to using products that will help and not further destroy our environment like bamboo toothbrushes, reusable food containers, composting, recycling, etc. My kids can't get enough of it and sometimes will wait to take turns to spend time with her. Katerina is constantly interested in experiences that will enhance her knowledge of her field of child education. She is currently in the process of setting up observations in various schools that range in teaching methodologies such as Waldorf, Montessori, Reggio Emilia, traditional and even a forest school! One of the things I love most about Katerina is how receptive she is and how she takes feedback. Living with others cooperatively and harmoniously takes work, mutual respect and communication. Katerina possesses and exemplifies all of these qualities. She has fit right into our city and enjoys learning about and exploring it in her free time. It's fun watching her develop a taste of her favorite restaurant or her favorite neighborhood to take a stroll in or enjoy an outing that is different from what she's accustomed to. She is cautiously coming out of her comfort zone to try new things and it's wonderful to watch that unfold in front of me. I would love for her to win this opportunity to further broaden her horizons.

