
February 12, 2003

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Sara Kraft. Sara was the School Social Worker at Doherty Elementary School in West Bloomfield, Michigan where my son is a special needs student. He began attending in second grade and is currently in fourth grade. Ms. Kraft provided help with the critical processes of selecting a school, transitioning from a different school district, creating an Individual Educational Program (IEP), developing a (peer based) social skills training program at school and facilitating team meetings for proper maintenance of the IEP.

I found Ms. Kraft to be an outstanding social worker for Doherty. She scheduled and mediated monthly meetings to address concerns of IEP team members and helped to find solutions for the issues we encountered. She also created a "Peer Pal" program for the school. As part of the program, volunteer students were matched with my son to provide friendship and social modeling during lunch and recess. This program helped Alex to develop relationships with other typical students in his classroom and provided him with the extra security of never having to eat or play alone. During recess, Ms. Kraft worked with my son and his peers to further shape appropriate social interactions. She took a very active approach, which included developing better communication skills, appropriate physical contact and reinforcement for positive behaviors. My son responded well to her interventions and is a happy, social child at school.

We are very fortunate to have experienced a good transition to a new school due to the help Ms. Kraft provided. I highly recommend her. I have found that the foundation Ms. Kraft set in place has become a standard we try to maintain.

Sincerely,

Bonnie McDonald

November 24, 2002

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Sara Kraft. Sara has been the School Social Worker at Doherty Elementary School where my son attends. We have worked together for two years since I enrolled my son at Doherty Elementary School.

My son, Alex, has many significant needs which have to be addressed within the public school setting. After meeting Sara and the special education team at Doherty, I felt reassured that her compassion and sincere desire to help meet student needs were good reason to enroll my son at Doherty. Since he began, Sara has worked closely with his teacher, the special education team and me to meet his many needs. Sara would schedule monthly meetings which she would facilitate to address any concerns I or the educators involved would have. Sara did a wonderful job at mediating any concerns the teachers and I would have. She always kept the meeting on track and allowed everyone to speak if they chose to.

Sara was very flexible and willing to try servicing Alex anyway which would best meet his needs. Sara worked with him on the playground to facilitate appropriate peer interactions during recess time. This assisted Alex in teaching him how to appropriately interact with his classmates and other children. Sara was very hands-on and creative during her interactions with the children. She would assist Alex and his peers to model appropriate playground behavior and she would reinforce positive behaviors she witnessed at the same time. Sara taught basic communication skills and appropriate physical contact to Alex and his peers. It was a wonderful way to meet Alex's needs.

In addition, Sara began a "Peer Pal" program at Doherty to meet the social needs of students like Alex. Alex had a daily buddy to interact with him at lunch and recess time. The peer pals were volunteer students from his classroom who each chose a day to play with Alex during the school week. This program allowed Alex to get close with several students in his classroom and provided him with security to never have to eat or play alone. This was an excellent program that Alex benefited from a great deal.

I feel so fortunate to have had Sara working with Alex and me at Doherty. She is empathetic, innovative, hardworking and an overall excellent School Social worker. I highly recommend her.

Sincerely,

Bonnie McDonald
Parent