



November 10, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am very pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Sara Kraft. I have known Sara for three years, as she has been the social worker at *Doherty Elementary*. Sara is an extremely hard-working, dedicated individual whose care for students is readily apparent.

As a third grade teacher at *Doherty*, I found Sara to be a valuable resource and an excellent support system when my students were experiencing social and/or emotional challenges. Sara was willing to work closely with me and tailor her involvement in my classroom to meet individual needs as they arose. For instance, she planned and enthusiastically carried out activities on self-esteem, friendship, problem solving, and bullying with my whole class of students. She taught them how to use "I messages" to express their feelings and to resolve conflicts. This was a tremendous help to my students and to the management of my classroom. When I began at *Doherty* as a first year teacher, Sara was able to offer me various insights on ways to better manage individual and whole class behavior. She helped me to establish a positive behavior management system and to begin my teaching career in a successful manner.

Additionally, Sara conducted child study meetings in a way that allowed parent, teacher, and other professionals' voices to each be heard. She scheduled these meetings, kept documentation of the proceedings, and facilitated the meetings.

Sara also worked hard to develop and maintain programs such as "Circle of Friends" and "Peer Pals". She monitored the social progress of individuals within these groups. Sara presented on these programs to the Superintendent of Schools, and her efforts were commended. Sara met individually with students both on a scheduled basis and as the need arose. She remained attuned to needs in the building and scheduled a theater group to come in and present a play on bullying one year and anger another year. These plays were the source of much student reflection and gave us as teachers a frame of reference when students struggled with these issues in our own classrooms.

Overall, Sara was a joy to work with. She is a committed, compassionate, self-motivated individual. I highly recommend her for a social work position. I am confident that you will find her an asset to your school.

Sincerely,

Amy L. Werner
Third Grade Teacher