

February 27, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I highly recommend Ruth Canji for a teaching position in an elementary school. As a parent of a first and third grader at Orrington School where Ruth has been the building substitute this year, I have had many opportunities to interact with Ruth and to observe her interactions with children. I am also an early childhood educator and researcher and so bring that perspective as well to my recommendation.

From September to January, Ruth was asked to teach my son's third grade class when the lead teacher had to take an extended emergency leave. Ruth stepped into this difficult situation with grace and ease. She is a gifted teacher who will make a unique contribution to any school staff. In addition to her ability to implement curriculum, she demonstrates an unusual sensitivity and empathy around social-emotional issues in her teaching. One example stands out – my son was being bullied by a classmate. Ruth took this situation seriously and within a day had obtained several books that deal with bullying for children that she planned to use with the class. She also had the two boys write each other letters. This letter writing process seemed to really help both boys work through their feelings and they are now friends. I found this to be such a creative and smart way of helping nine-year olds deal with this situation. It also showed Ruth's responsiveness to both child and parental concerns, her understanding of developmental issues of school-age boys, and her use of curricular strategies to address the situation.

I have noticed that Ruth makes a special effort, even in her role as building substitute, to connect with every child. She knows most children in the school by name and I often see her checking in with children to see how their day is going and how they are doing. Along with this nurturing, caring side, Ruth also is an experienced teacher who has mastered classroom management. Despite her coming into a class mid-year during a difficult transition, Ruth quickly seemed to have full control of the classroom.

Ruth also works very well with parents. She is easy to talk to and sensitive and responsive to parent concerns. Every week during her short stint in my son's third grade classroom, she wrote long, detailed letters home to the parents, updating parents on classroom activities, curriculum, etc. These letters were the most informative, well-written communications I have ever received from a school teacher and showed her unusual commitment, hard work, and intellectual integrity in her role of educator.

Ruth brings an unusual combination of nurturing and a deep understanding of the academic as well as developmental needs of children.

I cannot imagine a more qualified elementary school teacher than Ruth Canji. Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Juliet Bromer Ph.D.
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