

Recommendation for Ruth Canji

This is a recommendation letter for Ruth Canji, who I became acquainted with in her role as a permanent substitute teacher for Orrington Elementary School in Evanston. I am a parent with two children currently at Orrington and she was the 3rd grade substitute teacher for my daughter when the permanent teacher lost her husband suddenly and needed to take an extended leave of absence.

I was impressed with Ruth Canji from day one. She was compassionate with the children, understanding that they had just started school three days prior and now were faced with getting to know another new teacher for an indefinite period of time. She made every effort to smooth out the adjustment period for the children both emotionally as well as regarding their schedule and curriculum. Ruth worked closely with the 3rd grade team leader on a daily basis to keep consistency of projects/subject matter across classrooms. She quickly asserted herself as a leader and took control of a confusing and emotionally charged situation. She never missed a beat learning the new curriculum and moving the children forward on schedule.

Ruth has an excellent combination of a firm command with gentle delivery. The children knew who was boss, yet she did not raise her voice to command this respect. They all felt very safe, knowing that she was in control but also compassionate. She encouraged the children to be animated and passionate about their work. She created a simulating environment, but one that was also calm and under control. When asked to name some of her favorite teachers, Ruth Canji's name always comes to the top of my daughter's list.

I was particularly impressed with Ruth's communication with the parents during this challenging time. On her own initiation, she created a weekly newsletter that outlined what was going on in the classroom so that parents felt in touch with the curriculum and the activities that had transpired. She is an extremely thoughtful educator who also has the valuable perspective of being a parent. When praised for her communication efforts, Ruth humbly stated "I am just creating something that I would want to see from my children's teachers."

I would highly recommend Ruth Canji for a permanent elementary school teaching position. She is truly a gifted teacher who has both the intangible and tangible skills to be an extremely effective educator and a wonderful addition to any team.



Mindy Meade DeStefano

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