

May 6, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

Megan Chapman entered Cherry Tree Elementary to begin her student teaching with enthusiasm and a desire to try what she had learned in her classes at Anderson University. Besides book knowledge, she brought experience and passion for children with special needs. She had an encompassing understanding of children and their individual needs and learning styles. From day one in the Resource Department at our school, Megan used all the tools she carried with her to provide quality instruction to the individual students she was assigned to teach. Her responsibilities varied as much as the students she taught. She delved into planning and executing her teaching duties with confidence and ease.

Megan's role in our department involved all facets of teaching. Her responsibilities for planning lessons for students with a wide range of needs required her to collaborate with general education teachers. She worked well as a member of a multidisciplinary team. She shared her observations and ideas with professionalism, exhibiting the maturity of someone beyond her years. She was, in turn, respected and included as a valuable member of the team. As is admirable in all professionals, she investigated others' ideas and utilized them to insure her learner's success with difficult concepts. I am impressed with her expertise in the area of behavior management and looked to her for her input in writing behavior plans for several students. As a team member, she participated in the writing of Individualized Education Plans and participated in case conference committee meetings. She was comfortable in this role and carried herself in a professional manner. She listened with intent, digested information, and support the team effort for implementing a plan that had the child's best interest in mind.

Her rapport with students was commendable. She knew to set her expectations high and demand the student's best effort. She introduced concepts and re-taught skills until the student had mastered the content and had an integrated understanding. She sought the ideas of others in situations that she personally had exhausted her supply of ideas until she was able to find the "just right" approach that brought the child to mastery. She was organized and well prepared each and every day. Her lessons were thorough and well developed.

I trusted Megan completely. She was independent and showed a great deal of initiative. Megan will be a wonderful asset to any faculty. She is a productive member of a multidisciplinary team and a respected professional; she is also an advocate for the good of the child and the educational needs of each and every learner. Her understanding of collaboration, differentiation and parent concerns will bring wisdom and insight to a faculty where each member shares in the responsibility of a child's education. Megan will bring insight and passion to any school system.

Sincerely,
Diane Knollman