



April 15, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

It is a pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Gerda Malan. Gerda has taught at Foothills Alliance Pre-School & Kindergarten since 2003. In her eight years at the school, she has had a number of teaching responsibilities. She began teaching Kindergarten and then moved onto teaching Pre-School. She was instrumental in establishing the Junior Kindergarten Program that continues to be used at the school and which other schools in Calgary model their Junior Kindergarten Program after. My son had the privilege of having Gerda as his Pre-School Teacher in 2009-2010 and this is when I first met her.

I enjoyed every opportunity I had to volunteer in Gerda's class. Each day began positively as she met each child at the door and greeted them as they entered the classroom. Her teaching began at the door as she made each child feel that they belong, were accepted, and that they mattered. She modeled this basic social skill to the students and many others.

The Golden Rule was taught through modeling, by using teachable moments to help her students understand how to treat others with respect and kindness, and by instilling the importance of manners. Gerda has a natural ability and gift of teaching. Her classroom is bright and inviting. She is organized and her classroom routines help her students understand the expectations. This helps to minimize behaviour issues in the classroom as she is proactive, rather than reactive. She could often stop a situation from getting out of hand through her strong classroom management skills. However, when she did need to discipline a student, she did so with love and care and a desire to see a positive change in future behaviour.

Gerda's lessons captivated the student's imagination and she planned regular educational field trips. My son loved when Gerda would play the piano for them and sing with them. She encouraged the students to get involved through the use of a variety of musical instruments and movement to the music. To this day, my son still loves music.

As a Board Member of Foothills Alliance School, I am sorry to see Gerda leave our school. However, she is an amazing and gifted teacher and I know that she and her husband are acting on God's call in this impending move. Gerda was a blessing to the students, parents, and staff at Foothills and I know that she will be an outstanding educator in any school where she gains employment. I sincerely recommend Gerda for your school.

Blessings,

Jennifer Lockhart