

April 8, 2018

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased and honored to write a letter of recommendation for Tina Dennis. I have had the good fortune to work with Tina during this 2017-2018 school year. Tina works as an Instructional Assistant in a Downers Grove School District 58 blended preschool classroom. Our program is a developmentally appropriate preschool, serving children three, four, and five years of age and their families. The student body population is made up of children with and without identified disabilities. Preschool age children with disabilities participate in the program as special education students who have a specific educational plan in place to address their unique learning needs. A portion of the population participates in the Grove Children's Preschool program through funding from the Illinois State Board of Education known as the "Preschool For All" grant. Another portion of the student population participates in Grove Children's Preschool as community (tuition) students.

Tina joined our program as an Instructional Assistant for one of our special education students. Tina entered our classroom very knowledgeable of all aspects of early childhood education. I was impressed with her ability to quickly adapt to working with a child in our classroom with a variety of needs. She is aware of what is developmentally appropriate for him and is able to provide materials and activities that enabled him to work at his own level and thrive. Tina is able to create activities that are appropriate for him but also challenge him. Tina's kind and caring ways attract children to her, she makes the children feel secure and comfortable in the classroom setting. Tina is always willing to be involved with all the children in the classroom which enables the student that she works with to always feel part of the classroom whether it is a small group or large group activity. Tina is able to identify the individual needs of our student, including his social and emotional needs and is able to implement a plan that best suits his needs. Our program, Grove Children's Preschool has a diverse population with a variety of needs and challenges. I am able to confidently give Tina the responsibility of working with all of the children in our classroom, which creates an environment of total inclusion for her student. Tina and I often collaborate on what goals and plans we needed to implement for all the children in our classroom. Tina has been able to contribute many new and innovative strategies that we immediately put to use in the classroom that benefit all the students. Tina provides a weekly music session for all the students that is very well received.

Tina sets high goals for herself, has strong determination and a willingness to work. Tina approaches each and every situation with a positive attitude. Tina has an excellent relationship with the staff, children and parents of Grove Children's Preschool- she is an asset to the program.

In closing it is obvious that I think highly of Tina, she is dependable, conscientious and an industrious individual with whom I am sure you will be both pleased and impressed. She would be an asset to any school or organization. Please feel free to contact me if you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Nancy K. Hildreth
nhildreth@dg58.org
Blended Teacher

Grove Children's Preschool - Downers Grove School District 58 – (630) 968-0294