

March 1, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam,

My name is Justin Beechwood and I am pleased to write a letter of recommendation for Sarah Kangas. I supervised Sarah over the final five months of the 2013-2014 academic year while she was employed at the Glover School in Marblehead, MA.

As the lead teacher of a substantially separate program known as TIDES (Therapeutic Interventions Designed for Educational Success), I supervised two staff members, one of which was Sarah. She was originally hired to support a particular third grade student in the general education setting. In February of 2014, this student was placed into the TIDES program to better support his needs and Sarah transferred with him.

The students in this program present a deep need for consistent social, emotional, and academic support. Working with this population requires a tremendous amount of patience, something that Sarah has gobs of. When a student escalates to the point of highly unsafe behavior, Sarah remains calm and alert. She frequently demonstrates quick-thinking by leading students away from a high-risk situation in order to keep their safety a top priority, and still manages to keep these students regulated and on task with their own activities.

Sarah constantly seeks ways to make herself a better person and a stronger teacher. She is not shy about asking questions or accepting constructive criticism. Sarah is detail driven and puts herself in the best position to accomplish a goal, whether that is getting ideas to click for a student or training for a charity triathlon. She sees what must be done and simply does it.

One of my favorite memories observing Sarah is when she was teaching a student about the Boston Tea Party. Rather than rely on just the printed material in the text book, Sarah chose to really get the student involved by acting out the event...with Legos. I chuckled watching Sarah as she completely sold herself out with voices, sound effects, the whole bit, all for the sake of this 9-year-old boy. The student was able to show what he learned and clearly enjoyed every minute of this unique lesson.

Sarah shows initiative, creativity, and flexibility on a routine basis. She is genuine. She is fun. She is good with people and an absolute asset to any school that would welcome her onto their team. Glover's loss will be your gain.

If necessary, I am happy to speak more about my experience working with Sarah. I can be reached by phone at 860.428.4239 or email at [beechwoodj@hotmail.com](mailto:beechwoodj@hotmail.com).

Sincerely,

Justin Beechwood