

I am very pleased to write this letter of recommendation for Marilyn Henrie. She has been my neighbor for 20 years. In all this time I have found her to be a wonderful neighbor, mother, wife, teacher's aide and friend. Any school would be fortunate to hire her to work with children.

When I moved to this neighborhood, I had three children and she was raising five. So over the years we have shared many good times together and watched our children grow. She is a fabulous mother and all her children have married and moved on and most are having children of their own. So now I get to see her be a fun grandma too.

Before she began working in schools she was a stay-at-home mom but also taught piano lessons to many children. My son was happy to be one of her students. Marilyn is a very personable woman. Attractive and professional-looking, she has good interpersonal skills and is easily understood by students and parents alike. I have found her so enjoyable to live next door to. She is bright, innovative, and dependable. Also she has many "homemaker" talents like sewing, cooking and varied other independent living skills (ILS) useful to pass onto many in her classrooms.

Besides my typical son I am mother to two girls with special needs. I have worked with many teachers and teacher aides over my twenty-year teaching career so feel I can recognize quality people who work well with all children and most especially with children with special needs.

When she started working in the school district I was very familiar with the teachers and schools. I know how difficult it can be to work in a class with children with special needs. She is bright, innovative, and has the patience much needed in these classrooms. She has always been friendly and kind to my daughters. My youngest can be challenging but connects well with Marilyn.

I know she has been taking many classes over the years and among her many accomplishments she is very competent with Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), and Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS). I remember one school year they placed her in a classroom with a laid back teacher who really didn't challenge the students. She was his helpful aide but there was so much more she wanted to do to help with the betterment of the class. Shortly after that she was placed in the classroom my daughter used to attend. I know how difficult that class can be for the teacher and aides. The teacher, who is a friend of mine, was very happy to have Marilyn in the classroom. She was extremely competent and able to make a huge difference to many students fortunate to work with her. I know they will miss her but it will be another school's gain.

I am aware that Marilyn has expressed her desire to move on to a position that affords her greater flexibility and growth potential. I enthusiastically recommend her for this position and know she will use her experience and abilities to serve you well. If you have any questions I can answer about Marilyn, please do not hesitate to contact me. (My email is bernaboop@sbcglobal.net, or (916) 334-4041)

I believe she would be a tremendous asset to any school.

Bernadine Mullen

