

February 22, 2013

To whom it may concern:

We are writing to express our sincere and heartfelt support for Elizabeth Linahon as an early childhood teacher and caregiver. Elizabeth, or Ms. Liz as she is known to my family, was our son August's preschool teacher for two years at Laurance Armour Day School (LADS). Preschool was August's first away from home care experience and we were anxious about his transition. Choosing child-care is a difficult and emotional process for parents – often one of the first crucial decisions they'll make for their child. We approached the task with some trepidation: would we make the right decision; would August be happy and safe; in addition to learning his A, B, C's would he get hugged regularly, talked to, read to, played with? Our experience with Ms. Liz was fantastic from the very beginning.

On the first day of school August said goodbye to us as if he was an old hat at this school thing. The next day he realized that school would be a recurring experience and he was very sad when I dropped him off. He did not want me to leave and I had to hold and comfort him. Ms. Liz effortlessly approached us and gently took August away from me and into her arms and soothed him. This went on for at least a week but Ms. Liz's gentle, calm and authoritative manner soon made August feel like part of the classroom and when I arrived to pick him up at the end of a long day, he did not want to go home!

Ms. Liz helped to create a safe, cozy and comfortable environment for the children to develop and learn in. The children respected her, and she in turn nurtured them and encouraged their growth and development. She was direct in addressing any issues that might arise in a child's care and she was always approachable; two qualities that we greatly appreciate as busy parents.

Our best assessment of the care Ms. Liz provided is our son August; a silly and affectionate five year old. August had speech articulation issues that were of great concern to us as he was preparing for kindergarten. Ms. Liz's patience and encouragement contributed greatly to bolstering August's confidence in expressing himself and being well prepared for his next school. I asked August to describe Ms. Liz and what he liked about her. In typically direct five year old fashion he responded with, "I like her because she is nice and she read to us and she patted my back at nap time." That affirmed our impression of Ms. Liz as a kind educator who responded to the needs of the individual child.

We strongly attest to the high quality of Ms. Liz's character as a person and child care professional.

Sincerely,



Alanna O'Connor and Timothy Harris  
Parents of August Harris

Anne & Eric Burgeson

March 22, 2013

4037 N. Leamington Ave.

Chicago, IL 60641

To whom it may concern,

We have known Elizabeth Linahon for the last several years as she was our son Thomas' preschool teacher. She is an excellent early childhood education teacher and we highly recommend her.

Liz is always encouraging to the children she teaches, and handles every situation with a calm, patient, professional attitude. She is extremely creative in the classroom, coming up with exciting ways to introduce new concepts to preschoolers. In our son's class, she taught a unit on space and created a rocket ship in a corner of the room that Thomas still remembers, three years later. It included headphones, a keyboard and a cardboard rocket (that the children helped to decorate) hanging from the ceiling.

Another area she created was a "doctor's office" in the classroom, which was part of a unit on hospitals and health care. This included a field trip to see how supplies were delivered within a hospital. These special areas in the classroom were frequently updated to keep up with the children's growing minds. Teaching with such creativity really helps to bring the concepts to life for the children.

Always caring and kind, Liz took the time to make every child feel special, while teaching them important skills like reading, writing and being kind to one another. Thomas always looked forward to his days with her, and we learned many things from Liz that helped us to be better parents.

Parent teacher conferences with Liz were always enjoyable as she thoughtfully explained the milestones that our son had met and what would be coming up next.

On a daily basis, it was always a joy to work with her collaboratively on caring for our son. She truly felt like a partner with us in his growth and development.

We highly recommend Liz and would welcome any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne and Eric Burgeson". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and connected.

Anne and Eric Burgeson

James R. Curry  
5420 N. Edens Parkway  
Chicago, Illinois 60630

March 27, 2013

To Whom it May Concern:

Our son Samuel began his relationship with Ms. Elizabeth Linahon when he was just over 3 years old. Being first time parents, the trial and error aspect of parenting and the insecurity that accompanies, was in full bloom. Of course leaving our child for the first time was difficult for all of us. Relying on an excellent reputation that Ms Liz maintains was soothing, but of course we were still very nervous.

As days passed, it was not only obvious that Samuel was enjoying day school, but as weeks passed we noticed his mannerisms, social skills, and basic mental and emotional growth were developing.

School furthered and Sam was growing into a little boy with quite a unique personality. Ms. Liz embraces the uniqueness of every child and allows that child to develop as an independent while instilling moral fiber and manners. There were no "cut and paste" treatments for the mass of children, but independent interaction allowing each child his own relationship with her. It was so comforting to see Sam so open with his teacher. The relationship is one that he treasures still. This is obvious when he sees her. There is and always will be definitive trust and love. To have your child feel safe with his teacher is priceless.

Ms Liz was an essential part of Sam's early development. The intelligence in the lesson plans, the individual attention that he was given, punctuated by an unbelievable education in what is necessary to begin kindergarten is what defines Ms. Liz.

Ms. Liz is defined wonderfully by every child she has taught throughout the years. She is defined by the amazing education that our son Samuel was given. She is defined by her unbelievable dedication to her work and the overwhelming competence she possesses. Any attempt to fully explain our satisfaction and truly express our gratitude would fall short of how we really feel. Such excellence shouldn't seem so effortless, but it does. It is beyond obvious that Ms. Liz truly loves her work.

With what is stated above, along with all the excellence that words cannot express, we feel overwhelmingly confident in recommending Ms. Liz for any position involving the early education and care of children.

Sincerely,



Mr. & Mrs. James R. Curry

Jacqueline Hatch

622 South Oakley Blvd, Chicago, IL 60612

jaxhatch@gmail.com

## Letter of Reference

To Whom It May Concern

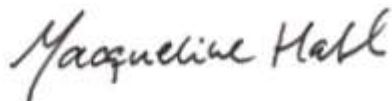
I met Elizabeth Linahon when I enrolled my son at Laurance Armour Day School in 2010. Being his classroom teacher she helped him with the not easy transition into the new pre-school. He adjusted very fast and very well, thanks to Elizabeth. We were lucky enough to have her as his teacher for two consecutive years.

Elizabeth has a wonderful rapport with children. Her ability to connect with her young students and her talent at teaching is truly superior. She is very professional balancing the daily classroom activities and management with close personal relationships with students. The children love and respect her.

I have appreciated her thoughtful comments and advice during our parent teacher conferences.

I recommend Elizabeth to you without reservation. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqueline Hatch". The script is cursive and fluid.

Jacqueline Hatch

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Jacqueline Hatch

622 South Oakley Blvd, Chicago, IL 60612

jashatch@gmail.com

### **Testimonial**

Dear Miss Liz, We are grateful to have had you as Daniel's teacher for two years. Under your care Daniel matured and learned so many important skills like respect, social skills, compassion and much more.

His transition into the new pre-school worried us but thanks to you it was much easier than we'd imagined. You made him feel at home from the very start. Your caring warm personality makes you a favorite teacher to all children.

We want to Thank you for everything you have done for us. We could not have asked for a better teacher!

Jacqueline & Paul Hatch, parents of Daniel

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

May 7, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter as a mother of two children who have had the benefit of being under the care of both Ms. Liz and Ms. Sandra at Laurance Armor Day School since 2008. While under their care, my children have developed both emotionally and academically.

My daughter, who is now of school age, still speaks of the times she spent under Ms. Liz's care. She speaks of all the different experiences she had while with her and does her best to guide her younger brother along in his current experiences with Ms. Sandra.

As a working mother, it is most important to me to see that my children are in a loving and nurturing environment. My experiences with both Ms. Sandra and Ms. Liz have shown that my children are well cared for and definitely better prepared for moving on to the next academic step in their lives which is a result of how well rounded their experiences have been. My children have created relationships with them that are reflected in their daily lives.

I have had the pleasure of having these two educators as a presence in my children's lives and know that wherever this next step takes them they will be of great impact to all those little ones who are given the opportunity to share their lives with them.

Although I am sad to see them go, I am comforted by knowing my children are better for having known them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leonor Torres Whitt".

Leonor Torres Whitt  
LADS Parent