March 6, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I was delighted when Emily asked me to write a letter of recommendation on her behalf. This is a personal letter of recommendation meant to vouch for her character, her good nature and her genuinely kind heart. It is difficult to put into words what Emily has meant to our family over the years, but I will do my best.

In an effort to validate my perspective, let me start by giving you a brief personal background. I was raised by teachers. My mother taught kindergarten for over thirty years (a true saint) and my father was a high school English and PE teacher as well as a coach and athletic director. I myself went on to earn a masters degree in teaching and taught second grade in California before becoming a stay at home mom.

 I first met Emily at our neighborhood picnic. We were new to the area, having just moved back from California. She must have heard that we had young children because she approached me, introduced herself (as only Emily can) and handed me a professionally printed, babysitting business card...at thirteen! I could just tell from that initial introduction that she might be one of the best things that could have ever happened to us and the answer to our prayers. And, in fact, she was. You see, although my husband and I are both from Michigan, our nearest family was 2 hours away so we didn’t have anyone in town to help us, if needed, with our 3 young children. And I wasn’t willing to leave them with just anyone. As it turned out, Emily was so much more than “just anyone.”

Emily has been a part of so many good moments in our lives. In all honesty, it is because of Emily that my childrens’ childhood memories are so special. She’s been there for birthdays and holidays, music lessons, dance classes, summer vacations, more sporting events than she probably cares to remember and so many other good times in between. Emily has been an extraordinary mentor and role model for my children. She has led by example with her kindness, strength, love, grace and humor. I could never thank her enough for all that she has given to us. She was and always will be more than just our babysitter and nanny. Over the years, Emily has become a part of our family. My children look up to her as their big sister and I think of her as a daughter. Although my children are mostly grown, beyond the babysitter years, they still talk about all of the fun times that they had with her. They still miss her and are always happy to see her. They are proud of her and honored to know that she was their teacher once too. We are all standing in her corner, cheering her on as she begins this next chapter in her life. It has been a privilege to watch her grow into the amazing young woman that she is today; so full of confidence and joy! I can hardly wait to watch her shine in a classroom of her own!

As a side note, we have also come to know Emily’s family. We have been welcomed into her home on multiple occasions over the years. I have witnessed, first hand, the love and laughter that fills that home. It is no wonder that that same love and laughter follows her still, beyond those walls. It is who she is. Her parents have taught her the value of a job well done, what it means to work hard, the importance of family and how to live a life with dignity and respect.

Emily is a natural teacher. Whether she realized it growing up or not, she has been teaching her whole life. So, when she decided to pursue a career in education, I couldn’t have been more thrilled! A more perfect fit doesn’t exist! Emily is doing what she was always meant to do. She is exactly the type of person that education needs and the type of teacher that every parent wishes for their child to have. She is kind yet firm. I can visualize her gently encouraging her students to reach their goals, congratulating them on their successes and leading them confidently toward their next goal. She is the kind of teacher who will go above and beyond to make a difference in the lives of her students. I can visualize her doing all of these things because I have personally witnessed her doing all of these things for over 10 years. She has left a loving and lasting impression on my entire family.

Emily has worked hard and deserves all of the wonderful things that are sure to come her way. Wherever she goes, I am confident, good things will follow. She is an exceptional teacher candidate and any educational institution would be fortunate to have her.

I welcome any further inquiries you may have regarding this outstanding young lady. Feel free to contact me at any time at (574) 238-1831.

Kind Regards,

Kristin Falk