



Hooker Oak K-8 Open Structured School  
1238 Arbutus Avenue  
Chico, CA 95926

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Sue Hegedus, Principal

January 22, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter of recommendation regarding Dana Saunders. My name is Jacy Merritt-Cudney and I am the Special Day Class teacher for grades 1-6 at Hooker Oak elementary. Dana volunteered thirty hours in my classroom as a CAVE aid in order to obtain field experience in a classroom setting. My classroom is a mild/moderate SDC classroom that services 15 students with learning and behavior challenges. The ages serviced in my classroom range from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The classroom is a diverse setting with 2 English language learners. The students have learning disabilities including Autism, Specific Learning Disability, Other Health Impairment, and Emotional Disturbance.

Ms. Saunders was an enthusiastic volunteer; she came on time and never missed a scheduled day. Ms. Saunders worked well collaboratively with four support staff, accepting feedback graciously. Ms. Saunders supported students in a small group setting during modified core curriculum math and language arts lessons. Ms. Saunders had experience teaching the Triumphs curriculum which is part of the district adopted Treasures curriculum. Ms. Saunders also taught excel math and grade level math concepts in a small group setting. Ms. Saunders demonstrated the ability to modify and adjust instruction depending on each student's academic ability.

Ms. Saunders implemented and supported the positive behavior management program in place which included token economy and Love and Logic techniques. She was consistently successful with classroom management. She always displayed follow through. She skillfully used body proximity, ongoing positive reinforcement, and supportive statements. Dana's gentle, firm nature promoted a respectful attitude among students. Dana created positive relationships with many students in the classroom.

I highly recommend Dana Saunders to any teaching position that she is applying. If there are any questions, please contact me at (530) 891-3119 ext. 136.

Sincerely,

Jacy Merritt-Cudney