

January 8, 2015

Dear Department Members:

It is my great pleasure to know Tamara Hammer, Owner/Director, Creative Learning Center of the Lehigh Valley (CLCLV). I am amother of two children (4 & 6). I have known Tamara for nearly seven years and my children have been enrolled at CLCLV ever since they were each three months old. Tamara is a rare blend of determination, dedication and devotion.

Tamara's determination is evident in her desire to bring the best, most up-to-date, and safe learning environment to CLCLV. Over the past few years, she has restructured CLCLV into a model child care and pre-school facility. She recruits teachers who are enthusiastic and caring and who bring creative, unique, and innovative approaches to helping the children learn and master appropriate level skills. She also recognizes the enormous responsibility she has to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the children in her care and utilizes both technical equipment and staff training to meet that responsibility. Tamara encourages, and is receptive to, feedback from both teachers and parents which she utilizes in making staffing decisions and modifications to the curriculum at CLCLV.

Tamara is dedicated to the personal and professional development of the teachers she has employed. She understands the benefit that having positive educated teachers brings to the classroom. Because of Tamara's encouragement and leadership, a number of the teachers at CLCLV have continued to further their education and receive Associate's and Bachelor's degrees, enhancing both the quality of the teachers and the academic curriculum taught in the classrooms. She also provides in-house training sessions for the teachers throughout the year to keep them current on various topics.

Moreover, Tamara's devotion to the educational growth, development and wellbeing of the children is nothing short of inspiring. She is a compassionate person who strives to make accommodation for families who may be having a difficult time financially so the children can remain at CLCLV. She welcomes therapists (speech, occupational, etc.) to work with their child clients at CLCLV. In doing so, Tamara is eager to learn and understand what the child's difficulties are so the information can be conveyed to the child's teachers and appropriate measures can be taken in the classroom to reinforce the therapies and further each child's growth between therapy sessions. I saw how this played out with my own child and it was quite impressive!

Tamara is truly an exceptional person who has a sincere understanding and passion for her role in developing and shaping children's minds and preparing them for elementary school. I trust Tamara without reservation, with the care of my most cherished possessions, my children. It is without hesitation that I recommend Tamara Hammer for consideration by the Department of Education.

If you require additional information or have any further questions, please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Tara 