



Letter of Recommendation for Laura Doney

October 20, 2016

Dear Agency Representative:

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Laura Doney

It is my extreme pleasure to write this letter in support of Laura Doney's application for practicum at your agency. It is my strong belief that Laura would be an excellent addition and asset to both your agency and the field of counseling upon completion of her practicum. I have known Laura for the past 4 years, as I served as her direct supervisor in her professional role as a Family Support Counselor with the Calgary Catholic School District. In my 12 years in the field, with 9 years in supervisory positions, I have rarely seen a young professional bring the level of theoretical knowledge, applicable skill and intuitive clinical judgment that Laura does. Her passion and natural ability to excel in this field is unparalleled.

In Laura's role as a Family Support Counselor, she is responsible for the assessment, goal development and implementation of therapeutic support and intervention for the clients referred to her. The program operates under a framework similar to the Functional Family Therapy model and takes a strength based, Solution Focused approach to supporting families. Although Laura had little experience working within these approaches, she quickly acquired the knowledge and skill needed to practically implement the approaches with her clients. Laura's ability to foster change with these families was clearly recognized when, due to a change in a service contract, Laura was retained in her position with the program while 4 of her colleagues, all with more academic background and diversity in experience, were replaced with other candidates. Following this transition, Laura quickly emerged as a leader amongst her peers and has played an integral role in helping the program/team develop its core values and service mandate. Specifically, Laura took the lead on developing a parent-focused Bullying Prevention program to be implemented in the District. Her tenacious approach to gathering research on existing models, current statistical information and evaluation of apparent gaps in information/skills being provided to parents on this topic, provided the foundation utilized to develop a 6 session program focused on preventing bullying by developing key protective factors in children.

Along with Laura's clear intellectual ability to apply theory into effective practice, she also possesses the interpersonal skills required to be successful in this field. She is compassionate, open-minded, flexible and approaches all situations and clients with a core attitude of respectfulness that is key to her success in engaging families and facilitating their readiness to change. Her approach to building relationships with her clients has allowed her to engage and support even the most "resistant" and complex clients. Laura is also uniquely skilled at managing crisis. She has consistently proven her ability to intervene to



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stabilize a situation and then support the client with developing longer term goals and manage the crisis independently.

I have overseen countless young professionals as they have entered into their counseling careers, and Laura has easily surpassed the majority of those employees in knowledge, skill, eagerness and attitude. I again recommend her as a practicum student without any hesitation, as I am confident she will approach her work and learning with the same eagerness and drive she has when supporting her clients. If you have any questions or require any clarification please do not hesitate to contact me at (403)500-2659.

Sincerely,

Janna Blaine

Team Lead – District Family/School Support Program
Calgary Catholic School District