

March 30, 2011

Reference Letter

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere and utter gratitude to you Sammy, for the care and nurturing you have provided to my son Carter over the year and a half he has been at Brown Bear Daycare.

I never once worried about my son while he was in your care, as I know you treat each and every child like your own. You have a way of dealing with these children that is so natural – you embrace and cuddle them when they need it, you teach them life skills like sharing and being kind to others, and help them to learn from right and wrong. As a working mother, there is nothing better than seeing my son run to hug you because he is so happy to be spending the day with you, and it is comforting to know your child is happy when you can't be with them.

Although I am so sad to see you go from Brown Bear, I am so happy that you are following your passion and branching out on your own. There is no doubt in my mind that you will succeed, and I would be more than happy to speak to your tremendous abilities when ever you need. I can be reached at Jodi.Downs@agr.gc.ca or 613-836-0116.

You will be greatly missed and leave big, big shoes to fill. We wish you nothing but the best in your future, and I know our paths will cross again in our little community of Stittsville.

All the best,

Andy, Jodi and Carter Downs

April 1, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

Samantha Ballignal was one of the caregivers that took care of our daughter at Brown Bear Daycare in Stittsville for almost 2 years from when she was 11 months to almost 3 years of age.

During that time, they formed a close bond and it was clear that Sam really knew how to relate to our daughter. Sam had ample patience, kindness and love to give during the baby phase, through the challenging toddler months, and onto pre-school. The children at Brown Bear, our daughter included, seemed to gravitate towards Sam's energy, enthusiasm and genuine love for her job. At drop off and pick-up times we almost always saw "Sammy" giving one of her charges extra snuggles and kisses or making someone giggle. As a parent, it was very comforting to know that our daughter was in such excellent care every day and with someone she looked forward to seeing and talked about at home with obvious affection.

We will miss Samantha's extra special care at Brown Bear.

Laura and Brad Weber
Stittsville, ON
(613) 831-0133

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura and Brad Weber", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephanie Delaney
501 Mazari Crescent
Stittsville, Ontario
March 28, 2011

To whom it may concern:

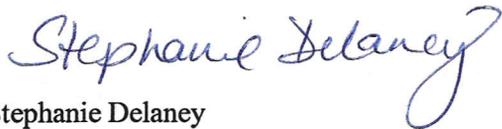
Samantha Ballingall is an exceptional caregiver and has earned my highest recommendation as a preschool teacher/daycare provider. I have known Sam for almost three years and during this time she has provided full-time daycare for my two children between their ages of 12 months and 4 years.

Sam is dependable, attentive, open, and genuine. I have observed her many times as a role model for children and as a leader amongst her peers. I have seen many examples of her attention to children – playfully interacting, guiding, and teaching. She is professional and courteous, always taking the time to tell me about my child's day or any specific concerns that she might have.

Sam's attention to my children far exceeded any expectations I had for a caregiver. She is understanding and empathetic to the needs of young children and obviously appreciates their unique point of view. Sam is friendly and sincere and has the gift to nurture and teach at the same time.

From the first time I met Sam, I felt absolutely comfortable leaving my children in her care. She gave me the confidence to return to work, knowing that my children were not only well looked after, but respected and valued. I believe that any child would very fortunate to be placed in Sam's care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephanie Delaney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'S' at the beginning.

Stephanie Delaney
613-831-9332



April 1, 2011

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter serves as a reference for Samantha Ballingall. Samantha completed her final Early Childhood Education (ECE) placement with our centre and we hired her as a full time, permanent Educator immediately afterward, in May 2008. Samantha developed strong, caring relationships with all of our children and quickly became very important to their parents as well. Her main Teaching position was held in our Toddler room. Samantha had a keen handle on every child's individuality and worked with each child in a way that best suited her/him. While Samantha's position at our centre focused on teaching Toddlers, she worked on a small ECE team and as such, also had a significant amount of contact with Infants and Preschoolers. Given her sound ECE knowledge, Samantha was able to develop and maintain valuable relationships with children of all ages at the centre.

Samantha was always a supportive team member and she participated in Team meetings and contributed ideas and suggestions in helpful and constructive ways.

I am confident that having had Samantha in the lives of my Brown Bear children benefited them immeasurably, and would recommend her as a caregiver to all children. My team and I will miss Samantha and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tamara Brown", with several horizontal strokes underneath.

Tamara Brown
Director

Brown Bear Day Care
1572 Main St.
P.O. Box 395
Stittsville, ON K2S 1A5
(613) 831-2272
brownbear_daycare@bellnet.ca
www.browbeardaycare.ca