

February 4, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

Amber Brown worked as a volunteer art teacher with me at the Park Place School in Norfolk, Virginia, from August to December 2007. Although she had interned at another school and was still taking classes at Old Dominion University, Ms. Brown said that she wanted the experience of teaching art to children from all different situations. Park Place is a privately funded school that provides at-risk elementary students from low-income backgrounds the basic reading, spelling and math skills necessary for academic success. The goal of the school is to prepare the children to enter back into the public school system with confidence by grade six.

Since these children have learning disabilities as well as social and emotional difficulties, it can be a discouraging teaching environment. I usually have to spend so much time explaining what to do that most of the volunteers I have had in the past simply helped with set up and clean up. Ms. Brown, however, began immediately interacting with the children, noticing their particular needs and helping them understand how to use the directions to make their own art work. It felt like she was an extension of me. I never had to remind her of what to do next, she just did it. After a few weeks of assisting, Ms. Brown wrote her own lesson plans and taught the class herself. She showed the children how to use collage to create their own CD label covers. The lesson covered the basic elements of design in a way that they could understand. That was one of their favorite classes because they loved the subject matter and were each able to complete a strong piece of work.

Ms. Brown is a gifted artist and has the ability and desire to communicate what she has learned to others. I know she would be a good role model and a caring instructor. She has the excitement and enthusiasm it takes to face a classroom full of children each day. The children and I have really missed having her in class with us.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Terri E. Scott

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