



THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

TEACHER EDUCATION  
EDUCATIONAL STUDIES PROGRAM  
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Aug. 28, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I write this letter to offer my whole-hearted and enthusiastic recommendation for Christina Stowe. I am the Coordinator of the Elementary Master of Arts with Certification (ELMAC) program and an Assistant Professor of Educational Practice at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Christina has been an outstanding student in two of my graduate level literacy methods courses and I have also supervised her fieldwork in a Wayne Westland public elementary school. Christina will be an important adult in the learning lives of many children.

Christina is organized, thoughtful, and intellectually grounded in her work with children. She draws on her strong background in psychology as she designs learning experiences for children that are active and tailored to specific children's needs. This year, she became especially expert at assessing young children's literacy learning through the use of performance-based assessment tools such as the Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLPP) and the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA). Drawing on what she learned from these individual assessments, she designed balanced literacy instruction for her students, initiating independent reading activities, writing workshop, and literature discussions with second and third grade students.

Christina understands that children forge their own paths as they learn to be literate; yet she also understands that she must create the conditions to encourage children to travel down these paths. She goes to great lengths to plan instruction, create a physical environment and materials that will invite children into full participation in her classroom. This year, she carefully organized the reading materials in her classroom into leveled categories so that students could choose books easily and feel successful with their reading choices. Her creative and thoughtful planning of lessons across the content areas of math, social studies, science and literacy provided points of entry into learning for all of her diverse students.

Christina collaborated with her school and program colleagues throughout the year in effective, open, and honest ways. She is a skilled communicator who knows how to approach even difficult topics with clarity and purpose. As a parent and teacher, she understands what it means to care about one's own child and she offers parents of her students information and support as they work together to nurture children. I believe Christina is an excellent educator and I would be glad to talk with you further about her practices. Please contact me at [creischl@umich.edu](mailto:creischl@umich.edu) or at (734) 994-0831.

Sincerely,

Catherine H. Reischl, Ph.D.