



Children's Home Society
OF MINNESOTA

Leadership and excellence
in child care, adoption and
child abuse prevention.

web address - www.chsm.com

2230 Como Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108-1798
phone: 651-646.6393
fax: 651.646.0436

1605 Eustis Street
St. Paul, MN 55108-1219
phone: 651.646.7771
fax: 651.646.8676

May 7, 2002

To Whom **It** May Concern:

Regarding: Cathy Plantenberg

It is with sincere appreciation and admiration that I am writing this letter of recommendation for Cathy Plantenberg. Cathy has volunteered her time and many talents by providing Music Classes for the children of our Child Care Center. Cathy began volunteering here about a year ago and has now completed more than 6 sessions of 6 weeks each. She began working in our Magic Mountain Room with older pre-school children (ages 4 and 5). Her presentation was so successful that we requested her involvement in our younger preschool room. She kindly agreed and for the last six weeks has conducted one lesson in our Magic Mountain Room and then a second in our Rainbow Room with children age's 33 months through 5 years.

Our children love Cathy and her music and it is difficult to convey how thoroughly and attentively they become involved in her sessions. Cathy has an excellent understanding of the abilities of small children and is able to gain and keep their interest in a positive, friendly, engaging manner. Her sessions are very interactive and the children actively involved. She is enthusiastic and creative. **It** is very obvious that she puts a lot of thought and caring into the ever-changing array of props and actions that keep children interested.

Our staff highly values the many benefits we have seen from our children's involvement. Children are indeed more musical. We often hear them spontaneously singing the songs they have learned. One day a large box was left in the room and a group of children worked together to organize a game of jack in the box which they had previously learned from Cathy.

What was most impressive was that they reminded each other to take turns, helped each other in and out of the box and then sang the "clean up" song when they were finished. We believe that the positive message of the songs carryover into positive social skills.

Many of our children are refugees and understand little English, many others come from impoverished homes and a few of our children have difficult behaviors. Music seems to be a medium that reaches these children particularly well.

In summation, we strongly endorse the talent Cathy brings to her art and believe her presentations are a wonderful form of entertainment and education for children. Please feel free to call me at 612-338-2066 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Judy E. Burns

Child and Family Services Coordinator