

June 12<sup>th</sup> 2009

To Whom it May Concern,

Re: Brenda Baskind

*It is my pleasure to write a letter of reference for a master teacher, wonderful colleague and mentor, Brenda Baskind. Brenda has devoted the last 22 years to Holy Blossom Temple Pre-School in a variety of capacities. She has worked in every nursery classroom and for many years in our Junior Kindergarten. As well, Brenda has been the Assistant Principal for almost as many years.*

*As a teacher, Brenda displays many exceptional qualities. Anyone who knows her will attest to her unparalleled sense of dedication, work ethic, diplomacy, sense of humour and kindness. Brenda has not only been completely reliable, devoted and responsible, but also highly attuned to the children and so masterfully adept at understanding their differing needs. Her rapport with them is warm, upbeat, intuitive and incredibly loving. While Brenda runs a room with great ease, she is consistently aware of the importance of routines, parameters, safety and flexibility. She is always very involved with the children - facilitating play experiences, discussing their work, anticipating situations and closely observing or responding to their physical or emotional needs. Anecdotal recording is very often done by Brenda while working with an individual or group of children. She recognizes the importance of documentation and uses these notes to best plan a curriculum to suit all learners. Coming into Brenda's classroom, you will always find children around her, listening to a story, having something explained, facilitating their work or figuring out how to find the answer to many of their questions. The children really look forward to being with her each day and the parents consistently tell me how much they 'love Brenda and wish she could teach their child every year'.*

*In her relationships with parents, Brenda also excels. She is so warm, approachable and an incredible listener. While she looks to the parents as partners in educating their children, she also has been a wonderful mentor to many who have had challenges. Brenda has no difficulty picking up the phone in a given evening to chat with a parent about the day, to see how a parent is doing who has been unwell or to follow up on earlier discussions when time can be more*

*private and relaxed. Parents are often seen hugging Brenda for the time, effort and devotion she has shown to the entire family.*

*In her role as the 'Assistant Principal at Holy Blossom Brenda has always been appreciated for her helping hands, her ability to be a great team player and one who is always open to new ideas. Her many years of experience have not dulled her willingness to learn or her desire to meet the ever-changing needs of our school community. Brenda has been an incredible asset to our office management, and has always been available to me for ANY task that may be required. At any time that I am required to be away from the school, I am always confident that Brenda can handle anything that may come her way. She has really been an asset and support to our team!*

*Brenda takes on her responsibilities and additional administrative duties graciously, carefully and with competence. She is the ultimate colleague and friend – so easy to talk to, with a sincere listening ear, a warm shoulder and one who always expresses her ideas with diplomacy, maturity and professionalism. Her fellow colleagues admire her tremendously as a teacher, administrator and devoted friend. There are truly not enough adjectives to describe Brenda's strength of character.*

*I consider myself very lucky to have been working with Brenda over the past 15 years that I have been at Holy Blossom. Brenda is well respected by our parent body and held in high esteem in the Early Childhood community. Her warm, innovative programming in both our nursery and junior kindergarten classes has been an asset to our school and we continue to have yearly requests by parents for Brenda to be their child's teacher. With her many years of training and 22 years of experience at Holy Blossom alone, Brenda is surely a enviable candidate for the title of 'Early Childhood Educator.'*

*Sincerely,*

*Pam*  
Pam Hamovitch, Principal  
Holy Blossom Temple Pre-School