

April 28, 2010

Mr. Sutterlin,

I want to express our appreciation for the time that our two boys had as a part of your classroom. It is evident, that your real world work experience gained prior to becoming a teacher is a true asset. Your business run style classroom, by holding students responsible for their actions and assignments, has been beneficial inside and outside of the classroom.

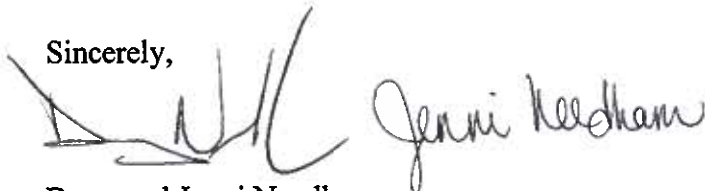
To us, one of the biggest influences you have had on both of our boys has been reading. We have learned that this activity is tough for two athletic, active boys to embrace. Our oldest son entered your classroom a bit behind in his reading level, and as a result, did not enjoy it. During your pre-school kick off meeting, you had indicated that this was one subject that you were passionate about and after a few weeks of school our son began talking about books. We recall one conversation during which our son stated that Mr. Sutterlin told him that "if he didn't enjoy reading then he was not reading the right types of books". We feel you personally took it upon yourself to make sure that he found books that interested him and that he enjoyed reading. That was a turning point. From that moment on, he embraced reading and ended up exceeding 4th grade reading level at the end of the year.

A couple years later, our youngest son entered the 4th grade and we were ready for him to experience your teaching style. Prior to entering your classroom, he was also behind in reading and we were approached on multiple occasions to enroll him in tutorial reading sessions. We continued to work with him but were not very successful. Entering your 4th grade classroom, he was only slightly above 3rd grade reading level and, as with our oldest son, did not enjoy reading. As you are intimately familiar with his progress, this year he has gained proficiency by leaps and bounds and actually will prefer to read during car trips than play his game boy. He has caught up to his appropriate reading level and is beginning to surpass it.

You have a unique teaching experience and understand the final product you are helping build. Kids are ready for the "real world". We certainly feel that your experience gained from your previous careers has placed you on an unsurpassed level. The level of professionalism you carry yourself, both in and outside of the classroom speaks volume of your character. This is passed on to your students and we have seen the affects in our children.

Thank you for being a part of our family and taking a role in impacting the development of our children.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is for Doug Needham, and the signature on the right is for Jenni Needham. The names are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Doug and Jenni Needham