January 27, 2015

Exchange-Emerging Leaders Letter of Recommendation

To Whom It May Concern:

 I have known Emily Adams for approximately 24 years since she was quite young. She has always been focused on contributing to a better community that promotes the well-being of children and families. In 2006, she entered the Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education Program at the University of Colorado Denver at a time of great family trauma. Her mother was paralyzed in a car accident and during that time Emily was able to spend extensive time caring for her mother, manage her own high-risk pregnancy, work full time, and excel at her master’s level courses at UCD. She finished her degree several years later with an award as the most excellent student in her program. She demonstrated courage, compassion and perseverance.

 Emily has had extensive experience in early childhood education, and from the beginning, her work focused on infants, toddlers, and families. Her work experience includes teaching in the infant room for Mile High Child Care Head Start in Denver from 1998-2000 and implementing a child-inspired curriculum with toddlers in a play-based classroom from 2003-2204. She was a highly regarded Education Supervisor for Early Head Start in Denver from 2005-2009 and then become a Senior Writer/Training Specialist for the Early Head Start National Resource Center at Zero to Three. As one can see by looking at her professional career, Emily continually challenged herself to become a leader in the field. In her position at ZERO to THREE, she has become an excellent trainer, educator, and author.

 As can be seen on her resume, Emily Adams is an advocate who is moving the field forward by writing significant and timely publications for *Young Children, Zero to Three,* and the *Early Head Start National Resource Center News You Can Use.* She is effectively influencing the field through her ability to interpret theory and research into practical strategies. I highly recommend Emily for the award and recognition as an emerging leader as she is innovative, dedicated to the well-being of young children and families, a team-player, and a highly regarded professional in Early Childhood Education. She will continue to contribute as a trail-blazer for quality in child care and education programs. She has already contributed greatly to Early Childhood Education knowledge base, but I know that she is only getting started! She deserves recognition as an emerging leader.

 If you have any further questions or would like to discuss Emily’s resume, please call me at 303-941-4583 or email me at dwittmer1@gmail.com

 Sincerely,

 Donna Wittmer, Ph.D.

 University of Colorado Denver

Early Childhood Education/Early Childhood Special Education, Emerita