

## Rebecca O'Connor

4/5 Split Teacher Phantom Lake Elementary oconnorr@bsd405.org 6/6/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for Sarah Pallat, who is launching her own preschool—Kind Start Preschool—in Bellevue, Washington. I had the pleasure of teaching alongside Sarah for three years at Phantom Lake Elementary, where we worked together as either first or second-grade teachers depending on the year! During that time, I came to deeply admire her warmth, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to her students.

Sarah is a natural when it comes to working with young children. Her nurturing presence creates a classroom atmosphere where students feel safe, supported, and eager to explore. She has an incredible ability to connect with each child, meeting them where they are and helping them grow both academically and emotionally. Her deep understanding of early childhood development and the foundational skills needed for a successful start in kindergarten make her an ideal educator to lead a preschool.

Beyond her expertise, what truly sets Sarah apart is her genuine care for her students and her belief in the importance of kindness, community, and whole-child development. She brings joy and intention to everything she does in the classroom, and it's clear that children thrive under her nurturing presence. I have no doubt that the environment she creates at Kind Start Preschool will be one filled with love, curiosity, and meaningful learning.

Families in the Bellevue area are incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to join this new preschool community led by someone as knowledgeable, dedicated and compassionate as Sarah. I wholeheartedly recommend her and Kind Start Preschool to anyone looking for a thoughtful, developmentally appropriate, and nurturing early learning experience for their child.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like to speak further about my experience working with Sarah.

Warmly,

Rebecca O'Connor