

Audrey Jones  
1111 El Mirador Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90815

July 18, 2005

RE: Letter of reference, Carolyn Gatzke

To Whom It May Concern:


I have known Carolyn for many years and have benefited greatly from her patient listening, understanding, feedback and sound advice as I worked through innumerable parenting issues. The oldest of my three children is nearly eighteen years old and the youngest is about to turn six. They are very different from one another and I'm so grateful that Carolyn has been there for me as I've worked to respond to their various needs.

Carolyn and I were good friends when our first children were born. Because she had training in child development and was so enjoyable to talk to, I often turned to Carolyn for help and advice on questions that ranged from potty training to dealing with divorce. I found most of her suggestions were practical and effective, not only for me but also for our many mutual friends and acquaintances with small children.

Carolyn's help and advice has had its greatest impact in recent years as I juggled responding to the very different needs of two daughters while navigating the turbulent years of my son's adolescence. I was not prepared for the changes my son was going through as he entered his teen years and struggled to respond to his changing behavior effectively. Frequent discussions with Carolyn helped me cope with declining grades, emotional outbursts, withdrawal from family and other normal teen issues. When he asked for professional help to work out issues he wanted to keep private, Carolyn encouraged me to honor his request and she referred me to a wonderful therapist with whom my son bonded immediately.

Despite my own 17 years of child rearing experience, I still frequently turn to Carolyn for advice. For example, my youngest child started waking during the night at five years old. After several unsuccessful attempts to get her sleeping through the night again, I asked Carolyn for advice. Her suggestion was surprising: that perhaps my daughter was not getting enough sleep. She recommended that I explain this to my daughter and that we move her bedtime up fifteen minutes each evening until she slept through the night. It worked beautifully.

Because of her formal training and research, Carolyn is an invaluable resource for practical solutions to most child rearing issues and for understanding what "normal" behaviors can be expected at all stages of child development. And because she is such a pleasure to talk to and is so passionate about child development issues, she puts parents at ease and conveys practical and often creative ideas with sincere care and concern for every child.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audrey Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom left of the page.