

January 8, 2026

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To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend Ms. Alana Vodicka as a candidate for any available early childhood teaching positions in your district. In her current position as a kindergarten and first grade student teacher at River Springs Elementary in School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties in South Carolina, she does an excellent job and is an asset to the organization and entire community.

I have known Ms. Vodicka since the fall of 2025. She has been a preservice intern completing Internships I (5K) and II (first grade) as an undergraduate Early Childhood Education major at the University of South Carolina. I serve as her University Supervisor. It is obvious that working with children is the perfect match for her strengths and talents. In her internships in both 5K and first grades, she continues to demonstrate that she is a natural born educator. She is reflective and eager to learn. She has created lessons that are engaging and appropriate for her learners' age and ability levels. Her lessons are thoughtful and well planned. While teaching, she is patient and gives students the opportunity to share and voice their opinions. She is positive and has strong management skills. She has excellent written and verbal communication skills, is extremely organized, can work independently, as well as part of a team, and is an engaging and knowledgeable future teacher.

What sets Ms. Vodicka apart is the rapport she builds with the community she serves. Her demeanor with students and the language she uses as she speaks with children validates them as the capable and curious learners that they are. She puts her whole heart into the work she does and prides herself in knowing and engaging all involved stakeholders from students and their families to colleagues. She also works well with her team and contributes fully in planning meetings, PLCs, and PD sessions. This team approach has proven effective in providing and supporting her students as they gain educational, social, and emotional strategies and skills. Ms. Vodicka's enthusiasm, creativity, and approachable manner stand out as a model. She is eager to assist, coordinate, organize, and serve.

Ms. Vodicka is already a teacher leader. Her creativity, passion, dependability, strong work ethic, and overall genuine nature make her an exceptional candidate for any teaching position. She is an asset to any community she serves, and I am proud to recommend her and welcome her to our profession as a colleague.

Sincerely,

*Buffy Murphy*

Jennifer "Buffy" H. Murphy, Ed.D., NBCT  
2007 South Carolina Teacher of the Year  
Induction, Retention, and Instructional Coach  
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