



March 20, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to write a letter nominating Amy Anderson for teacher of the year. Every school has a core group of teachers that stand out amongst the staff. Amy is truly the center of all the good things happening at Two Rivers. Amy is dedicated to providing a safe well run child care, helping young parents become better parents, young parent/student academic success, and she supports the school culture.

Amy is instrumental in the daily happenings of the daycare center and she takes our young parents under her wing and mentors them. I have seen so many of our students graduate because Amy makes sure they earn the credits they need to graduate. She consistently goes above and beyond and really takes ownership of the young parents program. Just this school year our childcare program will have served twenty-one babies, eighteen young mothers, and six young fathers. Of these twenty-seven young parents, four have graduated early, two are in the process of earning their GED and the other twenty-one young parents are on track to graduate with their class.

The Young Parents Child Care Center is much more than a safe, convenient, babysitting service. Amy and her team work with the babies and the parents on developmental milestones, safety, nutrition, and cognitive development. The program's goals are to encourage developmental skills, provide a safe and stimulating environment, assist in meeting basic needs, and provide a schedule and sense of stability and security for the child and the parents.

The young parents are provided time to meet together to learn about parenting skills and healthy relationship skills, explore career opportunities, connect with community resources, and receive academic support along their journey to graduation and successfully rewarding futures for their little families. Earning a diploma is the primary goal. For most of our young parents, graduation would only be possible with the support the young parent program provides.

Amy models nothing but good things and is not judgmental or demeaning which helps the young parents feel confident that their child is safe so they can focus on their own schooling. She supervises the daycare workers who do a fantastic job under her leadership. On a daily basis, when you walk into the care center you see the teachers sitting on the floor interacting and playing with the children, rocking a fussy newborn to sleep, changing a diaper, or feeding a child. It is at all times all hands on deck! It is a very safe, kind, and caring atmosphere.

Some feedback from some of our young parents:

- “My daughter is the best thing that has ever happened to me and that motivates me a lot!”
- “Oh my gosh, I love them so much! I was so scared about daycare because I always heard bad stories about daycare but as soon as I brought him I could see that the ladies all love my son as much as I do and even change his diaper more than I do!”
- ” Sometimes I stand behind the window where he can’t see me and watch how Lisa rocks him to sleep because he won’t do that for me.”
- “I love how they are so good with kids but they never make me feel like I am a bad mom or judge me because I am just a kid.”
- “ They help me make doctor appointments, they have even stayed after to watch him while I go and it is after hours and I don’t think they even get paid for that; they deserve a huge raise! I don’t know what they get paid but it isn’t enough.”
- “I came with 11 credits. I have 21 now and plan on becoming a correctional officer”.

I am hopeful that I have articulated how fantastic Amy is and how deserving she is to be recognized as Teacher of the Year. We all go into education with the hope of changing the lives of our students. Amy is not just changing the lives of our young parents but also changing generations of lives! Please call if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Teri Spiers
Principal
Two Rivers High School



