



December 2, 2003

**Re: Letter of Recommendation for Mark Suttle Agencies**

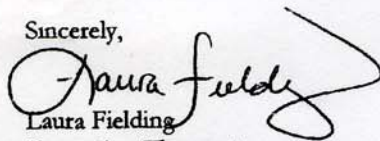
To Whom It May Concern,

For the past year, I have had the pleasure of working with Mark Suttle of Mark Suttle Agencies in developing an accessible playground for the children and families who utilize the services of Canuck Place Children's Hospice. Canuck Place is a home-away-from-home for children with a progressive life-limiting illness and for their siblings and parents. At any given time, the hospice is filled with children of different abilities who want to do what all children like to do – play sports, run, climb, play games, and laugh. Canuck Place strives to provide all of the children who spend time at the hospice with opportunities to have fun and to just be kids.

Play is essential to the healthy development of all children. Play is how children learn to navigate the world. Mark is very contentious of this and to this end, recognizes that playgrounds should not just be for children who are able-bodied, rather should be inclusive of all children regardless of their ability. Mark and I worked very closely together to ensure that the playground being built at Canuck Place was 100% accessible for all children – including those children who use wheelchairs for mobility.

In every community throughout North America, children with disabilities (one child in every ten) are excluded from playing on most traditional playgrounds. In addition to the children this hurts, it affects millions of people's lives every day – sisters, brothers, classmates, friends, parents, teachers, neighbours and countless others. I believe that Mark is committed to building playgrounds that are universally accessible. Mark's ideas for designing accessible playground equipment and adapting current available playground equipment show insight understanding of what it means for a playground to be truly accessible. I would not hesitate to recommend Mark for any playground project; requiring accessibility or otherwise.

Sincerely,

  
Laura Fielding  
Recreation Therapist  
Canuck Place Children's Hospice

**EMBRACING LIFE**

**Canuck Place Children's Hospice • Canuck Place Children's Hospice Foundation**

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