

September 16, 2016

Dear Mrs. Sochor,

As I begin another school year serving the children with multiple disabilities in my classroom, I'm once again seeking approval to participate in the PAWS dog therapy program.

Assessing the effectiveness of the program is highly anecdotal. While each and every student in my classroom made gains in reading levels that are documented, the emotional and social gains are those that are observable anecdotally.

The PAWS program assisted my students to be more empathetic with others, to have greater patience with one another and to show appreciation for both our dog and her owner. Reading motivation was also a tremendous benefit. The children enjoy reading to our dog, Sasha. They took great pride in their growing abilities and read freely without any embarrassment knowing that Sasha was a non-judgemental and private audience.

Reading to Sasha has been very calming for my students who have varying degrees of anxiety. For my students with autism, reading to Sasha provided a venue to venture out of their "own world" and stretch themselves socially.

Finally, I would love to have you come and visit our class so that you can see how well the program works for my students.

If you should have any additional questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Serving the children,

Cheri Tartaglione

cc: Danielle Sochor
Nancy Moore



Wanda Pichardo



