

Written as a letter of recommendation for Linda B. who was applying for a teaching position in the Washington DC area and who brought with her from her earlier teaching experience a Dekodiphukan kit.

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Tricia A. and I am a Community Based Teacher at X. Middle School in Ithaca, NY. I teach Special Education to very academically needy students using life skills as their 'canvas' if you will. Many years ago, Linda B. introduced me to the Dekodiphukan reading program. I was quite excited to learn about it because I had been using the Math Their Way Program (by the same authors of this reading program) in the elementary school where I was teaching at the time and had seen great gains in understanding math concepts and their application by my Resource Room students.

I have used the Dekodiphukan program with my non-readers for the past 18 years. My students are a testament to this program as I have NEVER had a child leave my classroom (most are with me for 3 years) unable to read! Since many of my students are Mentally Retarded, that is speaking volumes. I will temper this statement with the fact that not all of these students will spend their lives reading for leisure. but it will help them be better able to navigate their world). Many of them read to get by in the interdependent life they lead day to day. However, for many of these students, parents and teachers alike could not envision that they may actually learn to read in the first place!

When I first started with this program, many of my students had Down's Syndrome and most could not read. They left my class as readers - around a mid-first to second grade level! Today, many of my students (because of the diversity that Cornell University brings to Ithaca) are ESOL/ESL students, students on the autism spectrum and MR. This program is amazing in that it's accessible to all who strive to read English - and for those who are ESL, MR and/or Autistic, it adds bonuses to their learning by using visual cues, articulation of sounds and multiple meanings of the words/language they are reading and learning.

I am excited by the prospect that Linda B. will be continuing the use of this program in the DC area. If you would like to speak with me please do not hesitate to contact me. (contact information removed).

Thank you ,

Tricia A.
MSed Sp. Ed. and Rdg.