



TRAI DHOS 3 - GENERATION COMMUNITY FOR LEARNING

234 Moo 3, T. Huay Sai, A. Mae Rim, Chiang Mai 50180, Thailand. Tel. +66-53-301-500 Fax : +66-53-301-507
P.O. Box 1, Mae Rim, Chiang Mai 50180, Thailand.

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Reference for Tiffany Crook

As a teacher of Mathematics in the Senior School at PTIS I have worked with Tiffany in the maths classroom, where she provided support for students with beginning academic English. Prior to her involvement these students had been struggling to cope with mathematics lessons in English, without any additional support, and I had been somewhat unsure how I could help them more, particularly with limited time and in such a widely differentiated environment. Things changed immediately when Tiffany's support was made available. I found her to be both highly supportive of the strategies I had been attempting to implement and at the same time encouraging and helpful in her suggestions of how I could adopt new ideas to improve the learning environment for these students. It is pleasing to note that the ideas, for example, vocabulary lists and specific language activities, were of clear and direct benefit to all students in the class and not simply those we had been targeting.

Tiffany worked with me to provide in class "push-in" support for students and also offered preparatory and follow up "pull-out" sessions for those students under her care. I always found her to be professional and easy to talk to. She was always willing to give of her time in the interest of improving student learning and of supporting me as a colleague. In addition to this, she became personally interested in the Mathematics being delivered – it is always wonderful for students to see teachers based in other subject areas become excited about maths!

PTIS operates a WOW (Watch Others Work) Week in which teachers can choose to participate; with the aim of providing peer led professional development. I asked Tiffany if she would be prepared to support me by observing some of my lessons, with a focus on how I managed learning opportunities for students with English as an Additional Language (EAL). She happily agreed and took the time to provide me with extensive written feedback, in addition to discussion sessions. I found it a very worthwhile experience, Tiffany found opportunities to celebrate the progress I had made, whilst at the same time continuing to offer constructive feedback in areas that I could target for improvement. I went on to complete a professional development course in Teaching ESL Students in Mainstream Classrooms (TESMC) and ultimately became much more confident and skilled both in teaching these students individually and in differentiating my classroom and teaching practices to maximize learning opportunities for all students.

I recommend Tiffany to you wholeheartedly and without reservation. She is a highly skilled and caring professional and will be a valuable asset to any institution fortunate enough to employ her.

Sincerely,

Lucy Kyte (lucyk@threegeneration.org)

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www.threegeneration.org

enquiry@threegeneration.org