

Dear Admissions Officer:

I have known Ryan Leever for the past two years. I first crossed paths with Ryan when I was looking for chess lessons for my children and a fellow mom raved about Ryan as a private chess teacher. I started taking my children to Ryan and found him to be very knowledgeable about chess and methodical in his approach. Despite his young age, Ryan carries himself with a level of gravitas which is rare and useful in gaining respect from his students. His entrepreneurial spirit also piqued my interest. As time passed, I recruited Ryan to be a chess teacher and camp counselor at my summer programs. I own and manage several enrichment programs for children in New Jersey.

During the summer, I had daily interactions with Ryan and have gotten to know him well. I wish all my employees were like Ryan. Ryan had a myriad of responsibilities. The most difficult was to teach chess to a group of twelve children between the ages of five and seven every day. With all the research on the benefits of chess to children, we were testing whether young children can learn chess. Ryan was up for the challenge. Ryan always came to his classes prepared with polished hand-outs and a game plan. He was able to convey the many rules of chess in a clear and simple manner that was appropriate for this age group. His students were engaged and learning. My youngest son was in this group of young students, and I beamed with pride when my five-year-old was teaching me how each chess piece moves. This is a testament to how effective Ryan is. At the end of the summer, I debriefed with each and every team member. I was amazed when all three teachers in the five-to-seven age group used the same adjective to describe Ryan. All three said Ryan was "perfect".

Ryan also served as a camp counselor when he was not teaching chess. His responsibilities included supervising the children during pick-up and drop-off, playing games with the campers, making hundreds of water balloons and organizing our materials. He was always looking for ways to be useful and committed to doing a great job. Ryan has this quiet confidence and can-do attitude that no matter what task I throw at him, he always responds like a problem-solver.

I have been exposed to many youths when I have acted in three capacities. First, I am an owner of a business which hires many youths. Second, I've been an alumni interviewer for my alma mater, University of Pennsylvania. Third, I started and managed the MBA internship program for Pfizer's Worldwide Strategy and Business Development group. Ryan ranks high among all the high school, college, and postgraduate students I have met because he wants to perform well and has the capacity and drive to do so. He gets along with people and gets things done! I strongly recommend him to any school. Should you have additional questions, please feel free to reach out to me at 908-899-1338.

Best Regards,

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