

## Centre universitaire de santé McGill McGill University Health Centre

Les meilleurs soins pour la vie The Best Care for Life

May 8, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

We have known Mrs. McCarry for many years and have been consistently impressed with her knowledge of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and her continual efforts to improve the lives of children affected by this disorder.

The Little Red Playhouse aims to offer high quality services to children with ASD between the time of diagnosis and school entry. By combining an academic program with evidence-based interventions that promote language and social skills, children with ASD should be better prepared for school entry.

Research supports the goals of the Little Red Playhouse which include early intervention for children with ASD and teaching children skills that with benefit their development and help them perform in a school setting. Public rehabilitation services can be difficult to access (e.g., long wait-lists) and are often not integrated with preschool programs. As children with ASD often have difficulty generalizing skills from one environment to another, combining both rehabilitation and academic intervention into one cohesive curriculum has the potential to address unmet needs of children with ASD.

We strongly support the purpose and goals of the Little Red Playhouse and hope that Mrs. McCarry and her team receive the government support they are requesting to be able to operate as an accredited Preschool and Elementary Integration Centre for children with ASD.

Rebecca Simon, Ph.D., Psychologist

Interim Clinical Leader

Autism Spectrum Disorder Program

Montreal Children's Hospital

McGill University Health Centre

