

Sandra Pontes

Sandra started her career at Vanier Children's Services in April 2005 as a relief worker. After noticing her emerging exemplary child and youth worker skills, she was hired into a contract position in the Family Bridges Foster Program. In June 2006, we celebrated her success in becoming a full time residential child and youth counsellor at Vanier.

Here are some of the words used to describe Sandra:

Sandra is a ray of sunshine at work. She exhibits positive energy and great passion every day. She demonstrates great enthusiasm and commitment to her team, the children and families she cares for. Sandra is able to start every day as a new day.

She demonstrates extraordinary skills on a daily basis within her role as a child and youth counsellor. She has the ability to instantly allow children to feel safe in the residential environment through her warmth, caring and compassionate approach.

She believes that everyone's voice should be heard and is a strong advocate that even the youngest children participate in their treatment plan.

Sandra genuinely cares about the children. She is calm and patient with them and knows intuitively when to cue or prompt, intervene,

Sandra has a liveliness and energy about her that naturally draws people to her. She inspires those around her to make each day count. Her optimism acts as a model for her co-workers who may not have experienced someone creating the safe space for them to think about the power they have to shift or positively impact a child or parent under their care.

Here's what some of the children and parents say about 'Sandra'

"Even when I'm my most angry she doesn't leave me." - Client age 10.

"When she spends time with me she makes me feel like a good kid." - Client age 8.

"Sandra makes me feel happy, even in my toes." - Client age 9.

And to boot the parents love her and sometimes they are our toughest customers:

"When I can't follow through she doesn't make me feel like a bad mom."

"Sandra is always there listening...sometimes that's all I need is that ear on the other end of the phone."