

January 2004

Dear Parent,

You are receiving this letter because at some point you identified an interest in receiving information about opportunities for families with children with special needs, perhaps through previous participation in PAL's, PIP, FACETS, Family Action Network or other parent leadership activities. As you may know, families like yours can play a critical role in the education of professionals who will serve children with special needs and their families. Professionals will, undoubtedly, understand and work with families better if the "family perspective" is included as a component of their pre-professional and on-going professional training. This is where you come in.

We are creating a state-wide directory of families who are interested in acting as "consultants"—experts who give advice—to pre-professionals (university/college students) and professionals (e.g. therapists, medical personnel, teachers, service coordinators, child care professionals) on topics related to children with special needs. The directory will include a family's brief explanation of their child's special needs and family contact information. Faculty interested in bringing a parent perspective to their class may contact you to invite you to speak or a training coordinator might contact you so you can share your experiences with current professionals. You may be asked to speak to a small group of professionals, a class of college students, present on a panel or mentor students. A small presenter's fee may be available for some presentations. Materials will be made available to help you plan for your presentation format. We know you live busy lives so you would be under no obligation at any time to accept an invitation.

As parents of children with special needs ourselves, we have traveled the bumpy road of medical and educational intervention services—one that only parents of children with special needs know. This is an opportunity to use our experiences to educate professionals with a family perspective. We hope you will consider this.

Please return the enclosed letter in the self-addressed stamped envelope and indicate your interest. If you agree to be included in the directory, we have a couple of forms for you to fill out with information you would like to include in the directory. You can download these forms from the web at:

<http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/FORFAMILIES.HTML>, we can send you the forms via an e-mail attachment, we can fax them to you or we can send you hard copies of the forms. If you have any questions or hesitations, please feel free to contact Lynn at the Waisman Center at 608-263-5947.

Sincerely,

Lynn Havemann
Early Intervention Family Facilitator and Trainer

Liz Hecht
Parent Projects Coordinator

Parent Consultant Directory Reply Letter

Please print legibly and send back to us using the self-addressed stamped envelope provided by Friday, February 6, 2004.

Parent Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone # (home): _____ Phone # (work): _____

E-mail Address: _____

Fax (if available): _____

Please check the applicable box:

_____ Yes, I am interested in being included in the Parent Consultant Directory. I will use this link: <http://www.waisman.wisc.edu/birthto3/FORFAMILIES.HTML> to download and complete the necessary forms.

_____ Yes, I am interested. Please send me the forms via an e-mail attachment. Specify the program used on your computer (Word? Wordperfect?): _____

_____ Yes, I am interested. Please fax me the forms using the fax # provided above.

_____ Yes, I am interested in being included in the Parent Consultant Directory. I need hard copies of the necessary forms sent to me at the above address.

_____ No, I am not available to participate at this time in the Directory but would like to stay connected. Please add me to the Family Action Network mailing list.

_____ No, please do not include me in future requests or mailings.

Waisman Center
c/o Mary Shaw
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Madison, WI 53705-2280