

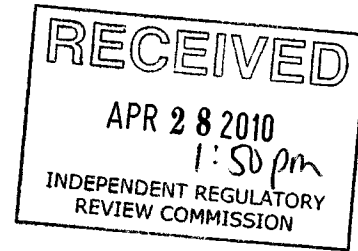


Begin With Us
Child Care and Preschool

2817

April 23, 2010

Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street
14th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101



RE: Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts final omitted regulations (#6-319)

Dear Commission members:

We at Begin With Us Child Care and Preschool, Inc., believe that Pennsylvania's commitment to children must include the opportunity for all children to receive the best education available to succeed in school and therefore in life. It is our belief that our obligation is to prepare the children of this Commonwealth to compete, whether they are typically developing children or are children, who are experiencing disabilities and/or delays.

As an approved provider, we collaborate with Infant/Toddler and Preschool Early Intervention services to provide a smooth transition for children entering classrooms, facilitate the Early Intervention services needed for children enrolled in PA Pre-K Counts classrooms, and facilitate identification of children who are not receiving Early Intervention services, but are eligible. Through the efforts of our Child and Family Advocate, who is funded by PA Pre-K Counts, all of the above, including the identification of children with delays and/or disabilities, has been made possible. Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts is giving our at-risk children, such as those living in low-income families, those with special needs, and English language learners the strong start that research shows can help them overcome these risk factors and enter school ready to learn and succeed.

We must strive to move forward to increase our rate, always raising the bar, in order to gain positive outcomes for all of our children. Research has shown many positive effects of including children with delays and/or disabilities in early childhood programs. The benefits are also evident in typically developing children as well as their families. They gain an understanding that can only be realized through experience.

Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts is working because it is providing high quality pre-kindergarten to our at-risk children in inclusive classrooms. We ask that you approve the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts final omitted regulations (#6-319) in full because all of our children deserve our help.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jolie L. Cover
Executive Director

A Great Beginning Never Ends