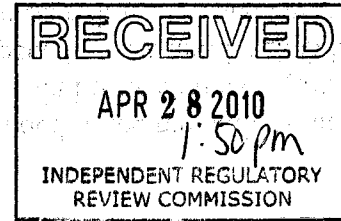




Child Development Council of NEPA

Our children are the future

2817



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

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

April 26, 2010

Dear Commission Members:

I am writing to express my support for the Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts final omitted regulations re-submitted to you on April 7, 2010 (#6-319).

The quality expectations of Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts, which are included in the regulations, are essential to gaining positive outcomes for our young children. 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.

An important piece of these guidelines is promoting inclusive classrooms. Our Pre-K Counts classrooms--both our single classroom and those in partnership with school districts--- are inclusive classrooms. The children with disabilities who are attending these programs are thriving. In addition, our typical children are learning first hand a valuable lesson in diversity which will serve them throughout their lives.

The quality expectations of Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts require providers to collaborate with infant/toddler and preschool Early Intervention services to provide a smooth transition for children entering classrooms. This relationship has been working very well in our classrooms and has assisted us in being able to offer these programs to larger numbers of children receiving Early Intervention Services.

The parents of our children--- both with disabilities and without--- can see that Pennsylvania is making inclusion a reality—not just a talking point. Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts is working because of this.

Please approve these regulations in full.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Dinofrio, Executive Director