



February 20, 2006

Dear Parent,

Gloria Soto, Nancy Robinson, and Marci Hanson are professors at San Francisco State University in Department of Special Education and Communicative Disorders. We have a grant that enables us to train special educators and related professionals to advance their skills in the area of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) with young children with complex communication needs. The title of the project is "Collaborative AAC Services in Inclusive Early Intervention Settings." "Trainees" in the project include practicing professionals in early childhood special education, speech-language pathology, special education, and related fields. We would like to invite you to participate in this project.

The grant funds enable us to support Trainees in the project to provide regular intervention services with your child for the purpose of enhancing your child's communication. Your participation will mean that, _____ a "Trainee" who is a professional in _____, will work with your child over a period of two semesters and develop several methods of communication with your input. These methods are referred to as "Augmentative and Alternative Communication" (AAC) and might include pictures, recorded voice on a talking device, adapted story books, and computer activities for very young children. The Trainee will receive additional consultation and support from SFSU Faculty through Drs. Soto, Robinson and Hanson.

Your participation in this project is completely voluntary and there is no cost involved. The AAC intervention for your child will be arranged based on your schedule and other programs in which your child currently participates. The amount of time that the Trainee will spend with your family will be approximately 4-5 hours per month. Throughout the project, you will be asked for your input and priorities for designing communication goals and materials for your child. Whatever is planned or provided will be developed in coordination with your child's current programs and goals. If you are interested in participating in this additional program to develop augmentative communication for your child, please confirm your agreement to participate with _____. You may also contact Dr. Gloria Soto, the Project Director, if you have further questions.

Sincerely,
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