

Special Services Cooperative of Wamego

USD # 323 Rock Creek

USD #320 Wamego

USD #329 Mill Creek Valley

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Mike Bilderback, Director

Diana Phillips, Secretary

May , 2005

Re: Peer Models

Dear Parent,

Congratulations! Your child has been selected as a peer model for one of our Early Childhood Special Education classrooms for the 2005-06 school year. We make an effort to select peer models at this time of the year so that parents have a better idea of child care services as next school year begins. This process helps our teachers to get a head start planning for next year but it also adds some assurances for parents as well. The final selection process involves both the teachers of classrooms and the principal in the building. The principal in each building where services are provided has the final word on not only who is selected but also how many children are selected per room. These combined efforts have lead to the final decision to accept your child as a peer model.

Peer models are a very important aspect of our overall services provided to children 3-5 years old. They "model" social skills, pre-academic skills, gross and fine motor skills and wonderful communication skills. Children at this age learn so much from each other through play activities. All of our instructional staff meet at least monthly to discuss curriculum, up-coming activities and resources to share. Approximately every other month these same teachers meet with me to review the quality of services provided and to make improvements as needed.

We typically hold four screenings yearly just like the one your child has gone through. These opportunities provide parents a means to determine if their child's development is age appropriate or not. For some children the screening process opens another door for further evaluation to determine if there are significant delays. When such delays are confirmed parents are provided with the opportunity of entering their child into our services. With four screenings taking place during the year, our caseloads typically climb. We have several years of data on children typically identified which helps us to estimate the number of peer models desired annually. However, some years vary. Should we have a situation in which the number of identified children exceeds typical estimates you need to understand that peer models may be asked to discontinue or be moved to another classroom. Although rare, this could occur. Should this happen you will be notified in advance so that an adequate period of time will be afforded to you in an effort to make other plans for child care. Also keep in mind that a \$50.00 fee per semester is charged each child that attends.

It is our desire to see that your child has a wonderful preschool learning experience.

Thank you for your consideration and approval to enroll your child.

Cordially,

Mike Bilderback, M.S.

Cc: Building Principal
ECSE Teacher

Encl: ECSE Parent Brochure