

February 18, 2003

Mr. Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute
1003 Jefferson Avenue
Oxford, Mississippi 38655

Dear Mr. Barksdale:

As you may be aware, Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan from Columbia University is heading an early childhood needs assessment to be conducted over the next 18 months. This assessment will identify what is needed in order to improve childcare in our state, what such improvements would cost, and what internal and external resources exist to help pay for those improvements. Among other issues that we hope this assessment will identify will be the need/cost/resources related to improvement of pre-literacy and language development content at licensed childcare centers here in Mississippi. We fully expect that other issues will also be highlighted by the study, including accessibility, identification of children with special needs, and other issues of critical importance to children and parents. It is expected that this assessment will be integral to development of legislation and policy in the near future.

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Thanks for your support for Mississippi's children.


Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Dr. Cathy Grace
The Early Childhood Institute
Box 6013, MSU
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

Dear Dr. Grace:

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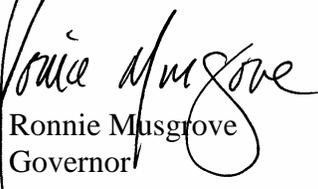
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Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Carol Burnett
MS Low Income Childcare Initiative
P.O. Box 204
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533-0204

Dear Ms. Burnett:

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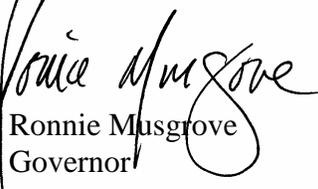
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Governor


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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Oleta Fitzgerald
Children's Defense Fund
207 West Amite Street, Box #13
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Dear Ms. Fitzgerald:

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Governor


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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Mr. Arvern Moore
Institute of Community Services
P.O. Box 160
Holly Springs, Mississippi 38635

Dear Mr. Moore:

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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Edna Watts
DHS, Office of Children and Youth
750 North State Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

Dear Ms. Watts:

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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Vickey Maddox
Health Facilities/Licensure
421 West Pascagoula Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Dear Ms. Maddox:

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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Dr. Bonita Coleman-Potter
Mississippi Department of Education
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Dr. Coleman-Potter:

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Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

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Ms. Nadine Coleman
Petal Parenting Center
617 South Main Street
Petal, Mississippi 39465

Dear Ms. Coleman:

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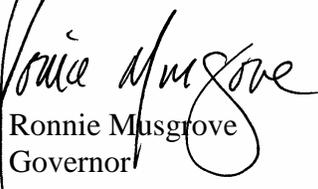
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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

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Dr. Louise Davis
MSU Extension Service
Box 9745
Mississippi State, Mississippi 39762

Dear Dr. Davis:

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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Dr. Chresteen Seals
Mississippi Valley State University
2900-A Highway 1 South
Greenville, Mississippi 38701

Dear Dr. Seals:

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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Mr. Reginald Henderson
Mississippi Valley State University
P.O. Box 7303
Itta Bena, Mississippi 38941

Dear Mr. Henderson:

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Ms. Pam Motley
Jones Junior College
900 Court Street
Ellisville, Mississippi 39347

Dear Ms. Motley:

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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

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Ms. Josephine Rhymes
Coahoma Community College
3240 Friars Point Road
Clarksdale, Mississippi 38614

Dear Ms. Rhymes:

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Dr. Mary Ann Jacobs
Hinds Community College - Child Development
3925 Sunset Drive
Jackson, Mississippi 39056

Dear Dr. Jacobs:

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Thanks for your support for Mississippi's children.


Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Dawn Hall
MS Forum on Children and Families
737 North President Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

Dear Ms. Hall:

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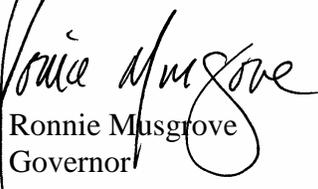
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Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Helen Taylor
Brickfire Project
104 E. Main Street
Starkville, Mississippi 39759

Dear Ms. Taylor:

As you may be aware, Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan from Columbia University is heading an early childhood needs assessment to be conducted over the next 18 months. This assessment will identify what is needed in order to improve childcare in our state, what such improvements would cost, and what internal and external resources exist to help pay for those improvements. Among other issues that we hope this assessment will identify will be the need/cost/resources related to improvement of pre-literacy and language development content at licensed childcare centers here in Mississippi. We fully expect that other issues will also be highlighted by the study, including accessibility, identification of children with special needs, and other issues of critical importance to children and parents. It is expected that this assessment will be integral to development of legislation and policy in the near future.

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Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Senator Gray Tollison
P.O. Box 1358
Oxford, Mississippi 38655

Dear Senator Tollison:

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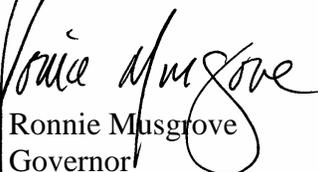
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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Representative May Whittington
P.O. Box 211
Schlater, Mississippi 38952

Dear Representative Whittington:

As you may be aware, Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan from Columbia University is heading an early childhood needs assessment to be conducted over the next 18 months. This assessment will identify what is needed in order to improve childcare in our state, what such improvements would cost, and what internal and external resources exist to help pay for those improvements. Among other issues that we hope this assessment will identify will be the need/cost/resources related to improvement of pre-literacy and language development content at licensed childcare centers here in Mississippi. We fully expect that other issues will also be highlighted by the study, including accessibility, identification of children with special needs, and other issues of critical importance to children and parents. It is expected that this assessment will be integral to development of legislation and policy in the near future.

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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor



Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute



Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Senator Ron Farris
P.O. Box 1941
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39403-1941

Dear Senator Farris:

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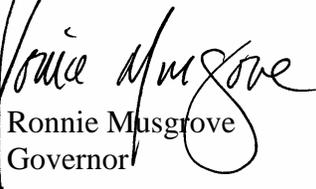
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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor



Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute



Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Judy Rhodes
Mississippi Department of Education
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Ms. Rhodes:

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Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
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Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Mr. Danny Bender
Mississippi Department of Health
P.O. Box 1700
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1700

Dear Mr. Bender:

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Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Mr. Roy Hart
Mississippi Department of Health
P.O. Box 1700
Jackson, Mississippi 39215-1700

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Governor


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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Connie Clay
Institute of Disability Studies, USM
3825 Ridgewood Road
Jackson, Mississippi 39211

Dear Ms. Clay:

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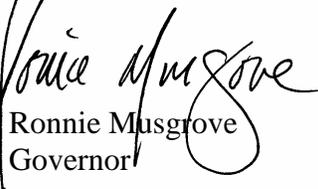
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Governor


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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Melissa Lewis
251 Byrd Avenue
Philadelphia, Mississippi 39350

Dear Ms. Lewis:

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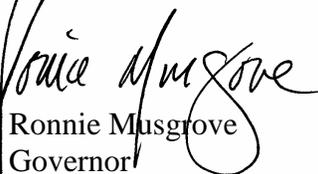
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Governor


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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Sister Maureen Delaney
Tutwiler Clinic and Outreach
P.O. Box 462
Tutwiler, Mississippi 38963-0462

Dear Sister Delaney:

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Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Mr. Howard Walters
Scott Marine Education Center & Aquarium
115 Beach Boulevard
Biloxi, Mississippi 39530

Dear Mr. Walters:

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Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Dr. Dewey Herring
Office of External Affairs and Education
Building 1100, Room 209B
Stennis Space Center, Mississippi 39529

Dear Dr. Herring:

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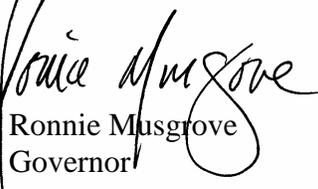
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Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


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Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Robin Robinson
Sanderson Farms, Inc.
P.O. Box 988
Laurel, Mississippi 39441-0988

Dear Ms. Robinson:

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Thanks for your support for Mississippi's children.


Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Dr. Tom Wacaster
Phil Hardin Foundation
P.O. Drawer 5533
Meridian, Mississippi 39302-5533

Dear Dr. Wacaster:

As you may be aware, Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan from Columbia University is heading an early childhood needs assessment to be conducted over the next 18 months. This assessment will identify what is needed in order to improve childcare in our state, what such improvements would cost, and what internal and external resources exist to help pay for those improvements. Among other issues that we hope this assessment will identify will be the need/cost/resources related to improvement of pre-literacy and language development content at licensed childcare centers here in Mississippi. We fully expect that other issues will also be highlighted by the study, including accessibility, identification of children with special needs, and other issues of critical importance to children and parents. It is expected that this assessment will be integral to development of legislation and policy in the near future.

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Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Monnie Vale
North Mississippi Medical Center
381 Greenbriar Road
Belden, Mississippi 38826

Dear Ms. Vale:

As you may be aware, Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan from Columbia University is heading an early childhood needs assessment to be conducted over the next 18 months. This assessment will identify what is needed in order to improve childcare in our state, what such improvements would cost, and what internal and external resources exist to help pay for those improvements. Among other issues that we hope this assessment will identify will be the need/cost/resources related to improvement of pre-literacy and language development content at licensed childcare centers here in Mississippi. We fully expect that other issues will also be highlighted by the study, including accessibility, identification of children with special needs, and other issues of critical importance to children and parents. It is expected that this assessment will be integral to development of legislation and policy in the near future.

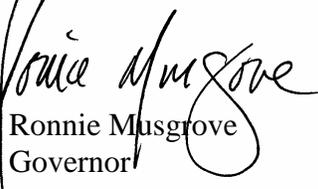
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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Mr. Lee Frierson
Five County Child Development
P.O. Box 1195
Prentiss, Mississippi 39474

Dear Mr. Frierson:

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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Mr. Cliff Wheatly
Hinds County Community Action Agency
P.O. Box 22657
Jackson, Mississippi 39225-2657

Dear Mr. Wheatly:

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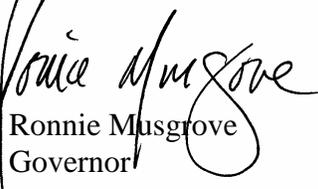
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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Billie Marshall
Yazoo Community Action, Inc.
735 East Powell Street
Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

Dear Ms. Marshall:

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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Mr. John Hale
Pearl River Valley Opportunities
P.O. Box 188
Columbia, Mississippi 39429

Dear Mr. Hale:

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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Mr. Jim Lott
MDA, Employment Training Division
P.O. Box 849
Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Dear Mr. Lott:

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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Vera Butler
DHS, Division of Economic Assistance
750 North State Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39202

Dear Ms. Butler:

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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Mr. Ed Sivak
Enterprise Corporation of the Delta
308 East Pearl Street, Suite 400
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

Dear Mr. Sivak:

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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


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Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Trenae Stewart
P.O. Box 1038
Carthage, Mississippi 39051

Dear Ms. Stewart:

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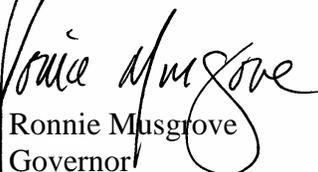
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Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Patricia Butler
2217 Briggs Avenue
Pascagoula, Mississippi 39567

Dear Ms. Butler:

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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor



Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute



Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Delores Sewell
(provider - Jackson)
, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Sewell:

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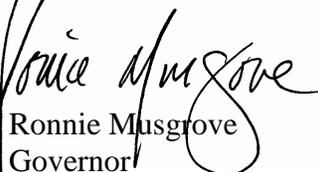
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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 21, 2003

Ms. Deloris McWright
Mother Goose Learning Center
P.O. Box 89
Leland, Mississippi 38756

Dear Ms. McWright:

As you may be aware, Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan from Columbia University is heading an early childhood needs assessment to be conducted over the next 18 months. This assessment will identify what is needed in order to improve childcare in our state, what such improvements would cost, and what internal and external resources exist to help pay for those improvements. Among other issues that we hope this assessment will identify will be the need/cost/resources related to improvement of pre-literacy and language development content at licensed childcare centers here in Mississippi. We fully expect that other issues will also be highlighted by the study, including accessibility, identification of children with special needs, and other issues of critical importance to children and parents. It is expected that this assessment will be integral to development of legislation and policy in the near future.

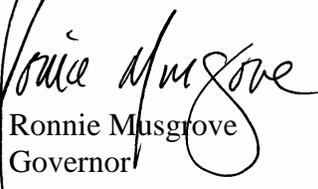
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Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
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Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 21, 2003

Ms. Dorothy Lewis
Precious Years
327 Lafayette Street
Columbia, Mississippi

Dear Ms. Lewis:

As you may be aware, Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan from Columbia University is heading an early childhood needs assessment to be conducted over the next 18 months. This assessment will identify what is needed in order to improve childcare in our state, what such improvements would cost, and what internal and external resources exist to help pay for those improvements. Among other issues that we hope this assessment will identify will be the need/cost/resources related to improvement of pre-literacy and language development content at licensed childcare centers here in Mississippi. We fully expect that other issues will also be highlighted by the study, including accessibility, identification of children with special needs, and other issues of critical importance to children and parents. It is expected that this assessment will be integral to development of legislation and policy in the near future.

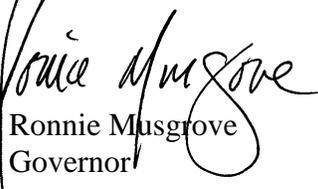
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A meeting will be held in Conference Center East on the first floor of the Woolfolk Building located at 501 North West Street in Jackson from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 6. Dr. Kagan will be here along with Dr. Richard Brandon from the University of Washington and Susan Ochshorn, who works with Dr. Kagan at Columbia. This meeting will be vital to the development of the project and we therefore hope that you will agree to participate in the working group and that you will be able to attend the meeting.

Attached to this invitation is a timeline that spells out the various tasks to be performed over the course of the assessment. This should help give you some idea of the significant scope of the project and help prepare you for the meeting.

Finally, we would appreciate your contacting Claiborne Barksdale at the Barksdale Reading Institute (662-236-5600 or barksdac@msreads.org) by February 28 to let us know if you can help with this project and attend the meeting. Mr. Barksdale will also be glad to try to answer any questions that you might have about the assessment.

Thanks for your support for Mississippi's children.


Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Anne Stanberry
Mississippi Early Childhood Association
35 Saint Andrews Circle
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401

Dear Ms. Stanberry:

As you may be aware, Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan from Columbia University is heading an early childhood needs assessment to be conducted over the next 18 months. This assessment will identify what is needed in order to improve childcare in our state, what such improvements would cost, and what internal and external resources exist to help pay for those improvements. Among other issues that we hope this assessment will identify will be the need/cost/resources related to improvement of pre-literacy and language development content at licensed childcare centers here in Mississippi. We fully expect that other issues will also be highlighted by the study, including accessibility, identification of children with special needs, and other issues of critical importance to children and parents. It is expected that this assessment will be integral to development of legislation and policy in the near future.

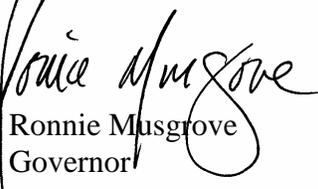
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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 21, 2003

Ms. Sonja Hopper
23 Silver Maple Trail
Petal, Mississippi 39465

Dear Ms. Hopper:

As you may be aware, Dr. Sharon Lynn Kagan from Columbia University is heading an early childhood needs assessment to be conducted over the next 18 months. This assessment will identify what is needed in order to improve childcare in our state, what such improvements would cost, and what internal and external resources exist to help pay for those improvements. Among other issues that we hope this assessment will identify will be the need/cost/resources related to improvement of pre-literacy and language development content at licensed childcare centers here in Mississippi. We fully expect that other issues will also be highlighted by the study, including accessibility, identification of children with special needs, and other issues of critical importance to children and parents. It is expected that this assessment will be integral to development of legislation and policy in the near future.

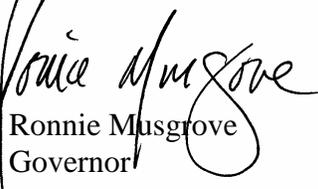
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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

parent - Louise Davis
, Mississippi

Dear :

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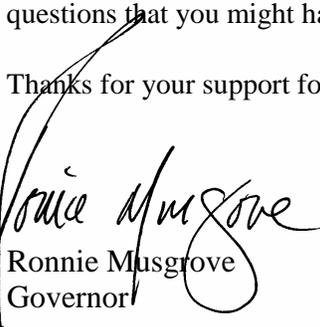
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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 18, 2003

Ms. Capucine Robinson
100 Cold Creek Hollow
Madison, Mississippi 39110

Dear Ms. Robinson:

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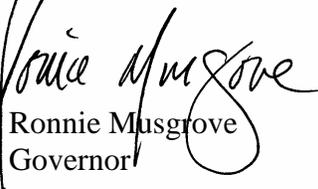
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Ronnie Musgrove
Governor


Claiborne Barksdale
Barksdale Reading Institute


Cathy Grace
Early Childhood Institute

February 21, 2003

Beverly Peden
Crossgates Methodist Children's Center
21 Crossgates Drive
Brandon, Mississippi 39042

Dear Ms. Peden:

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