Dear Administrator,

The Early Childhood Center at the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community at Indiana University in Bloomington is conducting a research study investigating how preschool programs in Indiana compare with one another and with states that have established, publicly supported prekindergarten programs. We would like to invite your program and classroom teachers to participate.

As state decision makers recognize the importance of early education, it is important that we provide clear evidence of the quality of current early care and education efforts; and how it compares with early education efforts in other states. The information collected from this study will provide a sound snapshot of the strengths of Indiana’s early care and education programs; and will provide professional development resources sound information concerning areas needing improvement.

As part of this study, we would ask two things of your classroom teachers. First, we would ask them to complete a brief questionnaire concerning their educational background, training, licensing, experience, curriculum used, and typical daily schedule. Second, we would schedule a time to come in and observe for one morning. We would videotape this observation for later analyses using two research measures: the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS) and the Emerging Academics Snapshot. Once both measures have been coded, we would destroy the videotape.

Alice Cross or I will follow up this email with a phone call to see if you and any of your preschool teachers would be interested in participating. If you have questions about the observations or the study, contact the researcher, Michael Conn-Powers, at Early Childhood Center, Indiana Institute on Disability and Community, Indiana University, 2853 East 10th Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47408; by phone at 812-855-6508, or by e-mail at eccenter@indiana.edu.

Thank you so much for your time and for your assistance in this matter.

Michael Conn-Powers, Director and Principal Investigator
Early Childhood Center
Indiana Institute on Disability & Community
Indiana University
812-855-6508
mipower@indiana.edu
http://www.iidc.indiana.edu/ecc