



March 4, 1997

Anne Simon
Parent & Child Program Officer
Division of Library Development
New York State Library
Albany, NY 12230

Dear Ms. Simon,

It is a pleasure to support the Dutton S. Peterson Memorial Library's efforts to obtain a New York State Parent & Child Services Grant.

Cornell Cooperative Extension conducts extensive parenting education programs to families in our community. Our outreach education program even works with high-risk families in their home.

In 1996, I conducted focus group research of parents and found they felt overwhelmed by their many responsibilities and, while they valued education, were not sure how to work effectively with schools. They wanted to learn more about their child's development and were not sure where to go.

The Peterson Public Library is in an excellent position to provide much needed education to parents and children at an early age and throughout the child's life span.

I believe this grant can:

- introduce books and language-related activities which contribute to children's literacy skills and, in turn, foster the literacy skills of adults
- provide pleasant ways to develop and strengthen positive parenting relationships with children using the library and reading books together provide a foundation for children to develop a love for books that can help them toward later success in school
- increase a parent's understanding of child development and foster the ability of parents and caretakers to talk, read and respond to children in

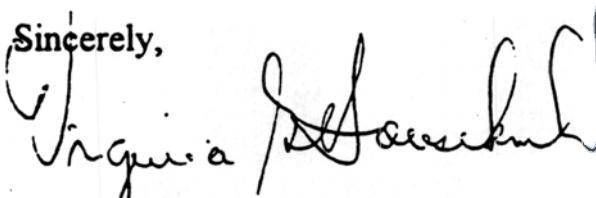
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developmentally appropriate ways by using the library and participating in their special parent/child programs.

In one of the parenting courses we offer, we always make a trip to the library so these "high-risk parents" can see the pleasant atmosphere first-hand and recognize where to go for an excellent selection of children's books, and learn how easy it is to get information they need to check out books at no cost.

As an educational organization, Cornell Cooperative Extension would be willing to work with Dutton Peterson staff to identify families who could particularly benefit from this grant and to assist in parenting workshops which introduce books and language to parents and children.

Thank you for considering their grant. It would be a tremendous benefit to a community with limited resources.

Sincerely,

Virginia G. Houseknecht
Extension Educator
Family & Consumer Sciences

VGH/bah