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Date: Mon, 7 Apr 2003 11:09:28 -0700 (PDT)
From: Lisa Shumway <lws329@yahoo.com>
Subject: AB311
To: FandR@semp.net

My name is Lisa Shumway. I home school three boys aged 8, 4 and 3. My oldest child is accelerated in his learning. My four year old (Jamie) is diagnosed with Sensory Integration Dysfunction which can contribute to learning disabilities if not properly monitored and occupational therapy provided as needed. We moved to Fallon NV from Washington state last July. Jamie has received therapy from a private occupational therapist who specialized in Sensory Integration Dysfunction. He also attended developmental preschool in Washington.

Upon moving here I found his sensory defensiveness (which had stabilized in Washington) was again a problem. I looked for a local occupational therapist. The only private therapist available had no experience and very limited training in Sensory Integration Dysfunction. She also did not have the equipment necessary for treatment of Jamie's specific problem.

I called the Churchill County school district. They had a therapist with a little experience and limited training in Sensory Integration Dysfunction. I was told her services were available only if Jamie qualified for and attended their developmental preschool. I explained I prefer not to enroll him in preschool this year. I was told not to have him tested then. I asked if I could have him tested and decline services (as was my right in Washington). I was told after he was tested I would be allowed to be part of the IEP committee who would determine Jamie's educational placement jointly. I decided not to have him tested.

I had decided to keep him home this school year; one of his main delays was in dressing himself. As long as I sent him to preschool I found I ended up dressing him myself in order to help him catch the bus. As I have kept him home this year I have been able to motivate him at home and give him the time he needs to dress himself. He has really improved his skills. I also found that with the training I had received from the OT in Washington and the treatment equipment I acquired there I was able to meet Jamie's sensory needs on my own.

However it could have been very different. Parents should be able to access school district testing, and other services their child may qualify for without being required to enroll their children in school to receive these services, or surrender the educational control of their children to an IEP committee.

I will be at the assembly hearing today on AB311. I am willing to testify if that would be useful to the passage of the bill. My three boys will be with me.

Lisa Shumway
423-2892

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ASSEMBLY EDUCATION
DATE: 4/7/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT W
SUBMITTED BY: FRENCH RUSHING