

## DISCLAIMER

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To whom it may concern,

I am a homeschooling mom that has been asked to write you telling about my dealings with Child Find and the Clark County Special Education Department.

When my son was three years old, he had an extreme speech impediment. Wanting to correct the problem early, I turned to Child Find. From the start I stated that I did not want him in a preschool program but that I just wanted to take him to the therapist myself. I was told repeatedly that was not how it worked and that he would need to go to a preschool class four days a week in order to receive the speech therapy. Because I truly felt he needed to see a speech therapist, I gave in and he started the program.

Less than a year later, I realized that the program was not working out well for our family. At that time I decided to pull him out. When I went in to notify them that I wanted to pull him from the program, I received much opposition about this decision and in general about our decision to home school our son. After standing firm on my decision not to continue with the program, the Directors of Early Childhood Education suddenly decided I could take him to the school closest to us just to see the speech therapist. We did this for the rest of the school year and it worked well for us. I was upset that we had been force to place him in the preschool program when in the end they were able to provide just the speech service that we wanted from the start.

From the start of our child find experience, I kept asking how to we could continue to receive speech therapy while we were homeschooling. I asked this question at Child Find. I asked at the Home Schooling Office. I asked the Principal of the school, and I asked the Speech Therapist. Each time the response was basically the same. It appeared that no one knew how to handle such a request.

Since there seemed to be a real breakdown in the system on how to deal with homeschoolers, my husband and I became disillusioned with the school district. We eventually opted to find private help for our son rather than push the issue further when our son became school age.

Like you and all involved, I would like to see a standard adopted, and see that all parties involved are educated on the procedures.

Thank you for your time and consideration in the subject of service for homeschooler.

Sincerely,

*Laura Farina*  
Laura Farina

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ASSEMBLY EDUCATION  
DATE: 4/7/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT X  
SUBMITTED BY: IRENE RUSHING