

February 6, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in deperation and frustion to plead my case for my son, Jeremy, who is autistic. In March of this year, Jeremy will turn 4-years-old and I am told that he will then be too old for the Infant Development Program and will lose his nurse, Andrea White.

Since December of 1997, Andrea has been doing a weekly session of 'Theraplay' with Jeremy. From the first time we did 'Theraplay' with Jeremy through O.S.N.S., it has shown amazing results. While I still believe that a more intense program is warrented for Jeremy, at the present time I realize it is unavailable. So I am mortified that now my child will be losing a therapy and a teacher that really does help him improve.

I am aware that 'Theraplay' is offered by others in the community, I don't want to disrupt Jeremy's routine and progress that he is making with Andrea at this time. With each change, each interruption, each **delay** in services- Jeremy loses ground.

I also find that in the 3 years that Andrea has been involved in my little boys life - she is the **only** one who has ever been consistent, never cancelling appointments, never leaving us in limbo . Andrea has been the only professional in Jeremy's life that has 'never been too busy'. Andrea shows a dedication and enjoyment for her job that is exceptional. More importantly to me as a parent, she has shown and proven her commitment to helping my son. So while there are others who have 'good intentions', what Jeremy needs is action. Andrea has proven herself with her actions. She is also a very motivated and committed believer in 'Theraplay.'

I understand that Andrea can no longer be his nurse through the Infant Development Program yet I know that 'Theraplay' is available to Jeremy. So I am asking that you to let her continue on with her weekly sessions for my son. The system has let Jeremy down so much by not having the resources available to him. It pays lip service to quoting '**early intervention**' yet doesn't put much commitment towards it. I as a parent have let him down by not demanding and expecting more. Now we both have a chance to right a wrong. I am doing my part now by asking you to keep Andrea on as his 'Theraplay' therapist, please do your part by allowing her to continue.

Thank you for time.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rodrigues

Penticton, B.C.