



# Melody Arons Center

of  
Applied Preschool Research & Education, Inc.

www.melodyaronscenter.org

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September 23, 2013

Mary E. O'Dowd, Commissioner  
Department of Health  
Division of Family Health Services  
P.O. Box 364  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

RE: HARRISON REPLY CONCERNING PART C;  
CENTRAL DIRECTORY

Dear Commissioner O'Dowd,

The purpose of this letter is to address the response of Terry Harrison to our organization's complaint about not being included in the NJEIS Central Directory. Please be advised that the Harrison reply is, in fact, a non-response and does not address our request for inclusion in the Central Directory. On behalf of our Center, I respectfully request a reply from you about our inclusion in the Central Directory. Either we are in the Central Directory or we are not. If we are not to be included, I request a thorough explanation as to the reason.

Ms. Harrison's response states in part, "After reviewing your website, I recommend certain revisions for consideration in the Central Directory." The MAC website includes specific information about our Center as well as:

OSEP Letter of Clarification Part C System of Payments  
Parental Consent Changes in IDEA for Medicaid/Insurance Use  
April is Autism Month  
National Baby Facts: Infant, Toddlers, and Their Families in the United States  
Rethinking 0-5 for Better School Results  
Social-Emotional Development of Young Children, 0-5  
The Influence of Culture on Early Child Development  
EI Parent Dictionary  
Of Interest to Spanish Speaking Parents  
T.D. v. NJEIS Post Hearing Brief and OAL Decision  
EI-Pre-K Law through 2011  
Free Disability Law Handbook Available in English and Spanish  
EI Law Update- January 2011  
New EI Laws for New Jersey  
Part C Regulations\*

*Growing, Learning, Loving – A Celebration of Life*



Placement Options required for EI  
The entirety of the Part C statute, Sec. 631-641  
Neuroscience and Education  
Brain Stories for 2011  
Music and Child Development  
Autism 2011 Update  
ABC Neuroscience Study Summary  
New ADHD Findings  
The Baby's Brain  
What is Neuroscience?

In addition to this list, there is an interactive piano with 15 songs for teachers and families to use, as well as a list of related links. It is a comprehensive and unique website used by both professionals and families throughout the country. Yet Ms. Harrison attempts to justify our exclusion based upon three minor areas. They are:

1. Remove the proposed regulatory language about the Part C regulations. We have done so, and replaced it with the 2011 final regulations. However, I point out that the part C statute is on the website, so that there is little possibility of any confusion regarding the legal rights and responsibilities of both professionals and parents.
2. Include that NJEIS has dispute resolution options. The website contains all of the State's early intervention laws as well as the federal, both of which refer to mediation. The State laws speak for themselves, so that this request is gratuitous.
3. Remove information about preschool services for children ages 3-5. This will not be done. Part C specifically indicates that some states may have policies to allow for children ages 3-5 to remain in early intervention. In addition, our organization serves the 0-5 population. I respectfully point out that Peter Wright's website is listed in your Central Directory and has information about IDEA for ages 0-21.

It is entirely unclear as to why there is resistance to placing the Melody Arons Center in the Central Directory as a resource for those in early intervention. However, it is very clear that we are being singled out for unequal treatment in this matter. Again, I seek your help in correcting this problem.

Sincerely,

  
Marilyn Arons, M.S.

Director

Terry Harrison  
Governor Chris Christie  
Melody Musgrove  
MAC Board of Trustees  
MAC Executive Board