

This is an example of a letter you can use as a guide.

Date

Terry Delgadillo, Director
California Department of Developmental Services
1600 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Director Delgadillo,

I (We) am a parent of a child diagnosed with a (developmental disability, language disorder, autism, etc..) When he/she was first diagnosed it was important to me (us) that I (we) be as involved in his/her care as much as possible. We wanted to know about all of the options that were available to us and how we could help.

Every child is unique, and my child is no exception. There is no one program that applies to every child. But working with the Regional Center and the local mental health professionals I (we) was (were) able to weigh the options available to me (us) and select the program that best suited my (our) child. One thing that was important to me (us) was that I (we) be involved in the program every step of the way from the selection of the program to its implementation.

Fortunately, we found out about D.I.R./Floortime. This approach has truly helped my (our) child. I (we) am particularly happy that I (we) am (are) an integral part of the program. The program has helped me (us) to better assist my (our) child. My (our) child is learning to think and interact with our family and his/her friends. Yes, he/she is also learning how to behave appropriately, but our child's developmental treatment program has done so much more than that.

(Insert a story about your child, his/her progress under D.I.R./Floortime, or your experience with the program.)

I (We) know that California faces a huge budget crisis and that more cuts to state services are on the way. But it is important to parents that they be given the option of choosing the appropriate program for their child. While D.I.R./Floortime might not be right for everyone, if it can help a child, it should be available. And, since parents are such a large part of the program, it saves money for the State--What could be better?

As your Department considers funding of programs, I (we) hope you will keep our experience in mind and preserve the right of parents to choose the program that best fits their child's needs.

Thank you.

Sincerely,