PREVIOUS PRESCHOOL SURVEYS

Name: Preschool Study by Felix Court Monitor, November 2000

Purpose: Respond to concerns that relatively few preschool children in Hawai`i were identified and served under the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

Target: Representative sample of parents referred for evaluation to identify the support they experienced in the transition process, reasons for refusing services, and the barriers encountered. Parents were selected from the school complexes to represent a mix of parents: a) those whose child was not found eligible for evaluation; b) those whose child was evaluated and found eligible for services; c) those whose child was evaluated and not found eligible; and 4) those whose child was found eligible, but the parents declined services.

Methodology: Telephone interviews were conducted by a Graduate Assistant at the Center on Disability Studies.

Results: Telephone interviews were conducted with 26 parents. Recommendations were generated concerning changes to the system, parent supports and outreach, and services.
Hi, My name is .............. and I am with the University of Hawaii. I am working on a study of preschool services as part of the Felix Consent Decree. The Court is trying to make sure that all preschool children who are eligible for preschool special education services are receiving them and to make the system easier to use for families.

I was given your name by ......................... I would like to ask a few minutes of your time to ask you some questions about preschool services. Is this a good time for you? (If not, when may I call you back?)

1. Tell me about the services your child is receiving now.

2. Did your child receive early intervention services before moving into the DOE?

3. Where is your child going to preschool? Is this the school that is in your neighborhood?

4. You were referred to the Department of Education, was s/he found eligible to receive services from the Department of Education? Did you decide to accept the program that DOE offered you child? What was helpful about the process? What was not helpful? Were you comfortable and were your questions answered?

5. How was your child referred to the Department of Education? Was there a person from DOE who helped you through the referral and evaluation process?

6. Do you feel you were well informed of your special education rights under IDEA during the process?

7. Do you have any suggestions for making this process easier for families?

Thank you for making the process easier for those families who follow you.

If further thoughts come to mind, don’t hesitate to call me at ...............