

September 8, 2010

Dear Parent(s):

This school year, your child's teacher and support staff are participating in the third year of the Communication Enhancement Project offered through Oakland Schools. Teams from ten districts that service individuals with significant cognitive and/or physical impairments will be participating. We are fortunate to have Kelly Fonner, a nationally and internationally recognized trainer in the area of communication and assistive technology, lead this project. Teams will receive training and coaching in building expressive communication skills. In addition to the training, each team will receive a set of materials and tools to support communication.

A large part of the project will be using video analysis to show techniques and progress in communication interactions. Kelly Fonner, our trainer, will be using the videotape to assist the teams in determining next steps for implementation. Videotape will also be used in each training session. Posting of the videos on an interactive site will allow the teams to share with our trainer and with other participants and to receive feedback between our formal training sessions.

Each participating classroom has been asked to select one target student for application of these skills. That student will be videotaped at regular intervals to document growth and use of strategies learned in the project.

At this time, we are asking that you grant permission for your child to participate in the Communication Enhancement Project. Please sign and date the attached sheet to indicate that you give your permission for your child to be videotaped and to participate in this project. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Dawn Jones at 248.209.2428. We are looking forward to working with your child's team and thank you in advance for supporting our efforts to improve our teaching practices.

Sincerely,

Dawn M. Jones, M.A.  
Consultant, Assistive Technology  
Oakland Schools