

Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program
19190 Olney Mill Road
Olney, Maryland 20832
301-570-1231

June 23, 2009

It gives me great pleasure to express my support and gratitude to Beth Pulsifer-Anderson and the Pediatric Adolescent Gastroesophageal Reflux Association (PAGER). Children with feeding disorders are prevalent in the population served through early intervention programs. Symptoms such as frequent vomiting, extreme pickiness about foods or textures and poor weight gain, are a few symptoms which are often overlooked or discounted by the child's pediatrician. As a feeding specialist involved with early intervention programs in Montgomery County Public Schools, I work to assist families in their child's specific communication and feeding needs and encourage them to seek out and advocate for appropriate treatment and referrals by their child's pediatrician.

The East County Montgomery County Infants and Toddlers Program (MCITP) in Olney had the pleasure of having Beth Pulsifer-Anderson as a speaker for professional development training. Our program includes over 60 professionals who includes therapists, nurses, social workers, parent educators, Spanish speaking interpreters and paraeducators. Each provider provides direct contact with families and children receiving early intervention services. Ms. Pulsifer-Anderson both educated and enlightened our staff as to the identification and treatment when working with families and children experiencing the symptoms of reflux.

Montgomery County contains an abundance of families whose primary language is Spanish. Informational brochures were provided in both Spanish and English which can now be shared with all families. It is critical those early interventionists are able to communicate essential information in the parents' primary language. This in turn allows for greater understanding of their child's needs and treatment.

Continued funding and support for PAGER is vital for educating the public, medical and nonmedical professionals as to appropriate treatment for children with reflux. Face to face contact with professionals in clinics serving diverse populations promotes continued learning as to the identification and treatment of children with Reflux symptoms.

Sincerely,

Judy B. Schiffer, M.S., CCC/SLP

Speech/Language Pathologist

Montgomery County Infants and Toddler Program – East County Site