

August 31, 2005

Dear____ and Family,

I hope that this summer has been a fun and relaxing one for you and your family! I wanted to tell you about an exciting project that I am involved with at UNM. It is a graduate program at UNM to train pre-professionals on interdisciplinary, family-centered practices. Basically, we train students to learn to work with children, their families and each other. Each year we have 13 students from the following disciplines: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Social Work, General or Special Education, and Nursing.

I am looking for families who would be interested in being matched with a student for the academic year. And of course I thought of you and your family. The goal of this match is to provide students with an opportunity to learn directly from a family who has a child with special needs. The students spend time getting to know the family in the first semester by visiting them once or twice in their home, at a school or medical appointment and or recreational outing. During the second semester the student is expected to provide a service to the family. This can be as simple as helping with household chores, babysitting or researching benefit or equipment needs... what ever the family needs. The goal of this experience is for students to acquire an appreciation of what it means to raise a child with special needs. Through the sharing of a variety of experiences with the family the student will gain knowledge about the serve delivery system and it's responsiveness to family needs.

If you and your familiar interested in participating in this activity- we can offer you a minimum of a \$300 stipend for your time. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are interested or if I can provide you with additional information. I am very excited about this opportunity!

Yours Truly~

Tanya

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