

Sample Letter to the Editor
March 2011

Dear Editor,

As principal of _____ Elementary School, I see young children engaged in learning every single day. It is clear that positive school adjustment in the first few years of school is foundational to future academic success and later success in life.

Conversely, I see children who are just beginning to struggle, who need additional support and attention. Primary Project, an evidence-based early intervention program has been proven in our school to help children adjust and thrive. This well-established and inexpensive program has short-term cost savings and long-term gains for children and our communities. Yet, Primary Project and early intervention programs at Children's Institute are about to be eliminated from the New York State Budget. I urge you to join with me in writing and calling your elected officials to tell them to reinstate this worthwhile program.

State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli in his February 2011 report states that "identifying successful programs that help at-risk children in their early years will enable the State to leverage its resources efficiently, saving the taxpayers significant amounts of money." Primary Project is a successful and mature program that identifies children early. It sets the stage for our youngest children's academic success, and prevents the need for costly remediation.

New York State must continue to invest in this nationally recognized program. It is fiscally prudent to do so.

Sincerely,

_____, Principal _____ Elementary School