

Comments from Parents About Interveners:

“We feel the intervener program is absolutely essential for our child. We are afraid that if our child starts preschool without her intervener, she will regress and very little learning will take place. We have learned through our experience with our child, that when she is confronted with strange settings or people, she has a tendency to shut down and close out the world. Having her intervener with her would make school a familiar setting. She needs her intervener with her to help her understand and digest what takes place at preschool.”

“Our child was placed in the Intervener program which we found to be outstanding. Our only suggestion for making this excellent program even better would be to provide an Intervener for the transition from a home to a school setting for deafblind children. Because of our son's multiple handicaps and inexperience in a social setting, we were very apprehensive of sending him to school. Although the teacher-pupil ratio is very low in our son's school compared to a regular school setting, it is impossible for the teacher to attend to him as much as he needs to be helped. Our son has some very complicated feeding problems. In order for our son to eat, we have had to take him home from school early each day to feed him. If an Intervener could have accompanied our son to school, she could have assisted with his feedings; and he would have had the benefit of attending school for the entire day. The intervener could also have assisted him in adjusting to the school setting.”

“I have a son who is hearing and sight impaired. He was in the intervener program for a short time, and really enjoyed and benefited from his involvement with the program. However, he was cut due to his age. He has severe problems and has been unable to attend school unsupervised. He receives very little on the home-bound program. I was going to school with him, until another son was diagnosed with a form of leukemia. My son would benefit greatly from having an intervener who could accompany him to classes.”

“Having an intervener work with my child when he enters the local school system would be a great asset to him, myself, and, I am sure, the teacher in charge of our child. This intervener would be able to help our child reach his potential and help him have a successful experience in the school system. Our child would not be able to function positively without a one-on-one situation in the school.”

“For approximately the last six months, our family has had the opportunity to participate in the intervener program. The progress our child has made over the last six months has been remarkable. Our child's progress has always been slow, often weeks and months have passed with no noticeable change in his level of ability. However, over the past several months our son has made obvious progress in such areas as self-help, language, and fine motor. Therapists who have worked with our son for almost two years on a one-hour per week basis have commented, in amazement, at improvements they see in our son each week, where prior to our intervener, months would pass with no obvious improvement. Our pediatrician saw our son last week after a six-month span and couldn't believe this was the same little boy. We feel our son is at a critical point in his development. Without a one-on-one situation in the school, we fear our child would be at risk of being at the very least, ignored, his needs neglected due to lack of ability to express them, and at very worst, abused, possibly by other unsupervised students.”

“It (the intervener program) is the most wonderful program we've ever been in!! As the time came closer for my child to go to school, I worried a lot. Would the school know her needs? Who would be watching over her? Would the other children hurt her? Would she have one-on-one time with a teacher? Would she just be sitting there all by herself during the classroom time? An intervener was the answer. This program is wonderful.”

“The idea of the interveners going to school with these children is fantastic. This would give my son the opportunity to have a set of eyes and ears to absorb all that the school systems can give. It would also be an aid to the teachers in instructing these children. It would comfort me to know that my child would have the constant one on one that he needs.”