

**New Jersey Department of Education
Special Education You and Me School Monitoring**

Receiving School: You and Me Preschool

County: Middlesex

Monitoring Dates: November 29, 2005

Monitoring Team: Denise Wilkens, Paul Bilik

Background Information:

During the 2004–2005 school year, the You and Me Preschool conducted a self-assessment of policies, procedures, programs, services, and student outcomes. This self-assessment component of the monitoring process provided the You and Me Preschool with an opportunity to evaluate its strengths and areas of need with regard to:

- The provision of a free, appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment;
- The development and implementation of policies and procedures resulting in procedural compliance; and
- The organization and delivery of programs and services to meet the needs of the students with disabilities.

The self-assessment was designed to identify areas of strength, promising practices, areas that need improvement and areas that may be noncompliant with state and federal requirements. The You and Me Preschool developed an improvement plan to address identified areas of need.

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) conducted an on-site monitoring to verify the self-assessment findings, to assess the appropriateness of the improvement plan, and to determine the progress in implementing the plan.

During the monitoring process, the monitoring team reviewed You and Me Preschool documents such as policies and procedures, student records from sending districts, lesson plans, services as indicated in IEPs, staff evaluations, student count information, master student lists, class lists, schedules of students/teachers/related service personnel, and other relevant information. Interviews were conducted with the receiving school's special education administrators, building principals, special education teachers, parents, and related service personnel.

Non-compliant items reflected in this report may result in non-allowable costs in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:23-4.1 through 4.16.

School Strengths:

The You and Me Preschool is commended for using an interdisciplinary team model in its preschool and primary classes that targets the total child. Children are provided with a wide range of services including computer based enrichment activities and weekly music therapy. The students also participate in activities with preschoolers from the public preschool that is housed in the same building. The activities include story time, crafts and activities such as puppet shows. In addition, since they share the playground area, they also participate in recess/outdoor activities together.

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For the primary class, the You and Me Preschool provides weekly community based instruction where students participate in activities at the local library, food shopping, bowling, restaurant trips, miniature golf and trips to the park. When appropriate, preschoolers along with primary students receive a weekly social skills lesson that also reinforces socially acceptable behaviors.

The You and Me Preschool also provides a home school liaison who, accompanied occasionally by the classroom teacher, visits the student's home to observe the student, address the behavioral concerns families have and offer parenting tips that assist parents in implementing those strategies used during the school day. The school also hosts a monthly parent support group meeting that includes guest speakers.

Areas Demonstrating Compliance With All Standards:

General Provisions, Free, Appropriate Public Education (FAPE), Staff Requirements, Discipline and Student Records were determined to be areas of compliance by the You and Me Preschool during self-assessment and by the NJDOE during the on-site visit.

Section IV: Facility Requirements

Summary of Findings:

During self-assessment, the You and Me Preschool accurately identified themselves compliant in the areas regarding programs provided in approved facilities and certificates of occupancy and inspections.

During the self-assessment process, the You and Me Preschool identified concerns in the area regarding fire drills. The You and Me Preschool's improvement plan is sufficient to address this area of need. During the on-site visit, a review of records and staff interviews indicated that the You and Me Preschool has appropriately implemented specific activities to bring about correction in this area.

No additional areas of need were identified during the on-site visit.

Section V: Individualized Education Program/Annual Review

Summary of Findings:

During self-assessment, the You and Me Preschool accurately identified themselves compliant in the areas regarding current IEP, IEP meeting conducted at least annually, IEP conducted with required receiving school participants, IEP conducted with students, as appropriate, signatures of participants present on IEPs, current IEP prior to service delivery, IEP accessibility to teachers and providers, informing teachers and providers of IEP responsibilities, timely implementation of IEPs, observation of proposed placement statewide testing, implementation of IEP components and informing parents of progress toward goals and objectives.

During the self-assessment process, the You and Me Preschool identified concerns in the area regarding communication to sending districts regarding missing IEP components. The You and Me Preschool's improvement plan is sufficient to address this area of need. During the on-site visit, a review of records and staff interviews

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indicated that the You and Me Preschool has appropriately implemented specific activities to bring about correction in this area.

No additional areas of need were identified during the on-site visit.

Section VII: Programs and Services

Summary of Findings:

During self-assessment, the You and Me Preschool accurately identified themselves compliant in the areas regarding class size and age range, exceptions for class size and age range, special class program descriptions maintained at county office, certifications for specialized populations, special classes serving students with similar educational needs, collaboration for home instruction, dispensing medication, policies and procedures relating to school functions and services and medical exams for sport teams.

During the self-assessment process, the You and Me Preschool identified concerns in the areas regarding teachers trained and providing instruction that is aligned with the core curriculum content standards and provision of nursing services under the supervision of a certified school nurse. The You and Me Preschool's improvement plan is sufficient to address these areas of need. During the on-site visit, a review of records and staff interviews indicated that the You and Me Preschool has appropriately implemented specific activities to bring about correction in these areas.

No additional areas of need were identified during the on-site visit.

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Summary

On-site special education monitoring was conducted at the You and Me Preschool on November 29, 2005. The purpose of the monitoring visit was to verify the You and Me Preschool's report of findings resulting from their self-assessment and to review the You and Me Preschool's improvement plan.

Areas Demonstrating Compliance With All Standards:

General Provisions, FAPE, Staff Requirements, Discipline and Student Records were determined to be areas of compliance by the You and Me Preschool during self-assessment and by the NJDOE during the on-site visit.

Additional areas identified as consistently compliant by the You and Me Preschool during self-assessment and verified during the on-site monitoring visit included programs provided in approved facilities, certificates of occupancy and inspections, current IEP, IEP meeting conducted at least annually, IEP conducted with required receiving school participants, IEP conducted with students, as appropriate, signatures of participants present on IEPs, current IEP prior to service delivery, IEP accessibility to teachers and providers, informing teachers and providers of IEP responsibilities, timely implementation of IEPs, observation of proposed placement, statewide testing, implementation of IEP components, informing parents of progress toward goals and objectives, class size and age range, exceptions for class size and age range, special class program descriptions maintained at county office, certifications for specialized populations, special classes serving students with similar educational needs, collaboration for home instruction, dispensing medication, policies and procedures relating to school functions and services and medical exams for sport teams.

During the self-assessment process, the You and Me Preschool identified areas of need regarding fire drills, communication to sending districts regarding missing IEP components, teachers trained and providing instruction that is aligned with the core curriculum content standards and the provision of nursing services. These areas of need have now been corrected and no additional areas of need were identified during the on-site visit.

The You and Me Preschool is not required to submit revisions to their improvement plan since all areas of noncompliance have been identified and corrected by the school.