



December 8, 2008

Mr. David J. Jemal, President
Imagine Academy
1465 7th St.
Brooklyn, New York 11230

Dear Mr. Jemal,

I want to use this opportunity to convey my thoughts about the Imagine Academy following my visits during the last year. This is a truly remarkable school. The dedication serving children with the most significant challenges is experienced the moment one steps into the building and feels the warmth, caring and commitment to help each child realize his or her potential. Each is approached with respect for his or her individual differences and every effort is made to organize a comprehensive intervention approach which will best help him or her progress with the help of learning relationships which allow various educational and therapeutic strategies to be effective. The range of interventions at the school offers flexibility and individuation and allows for innovation with children whose educational needs have not been met in other settings. Each child can thus be offered an integrated program which will utilize the most effective techniques and methods from a wide array of approaches which can be tailored to his or her needs.

It is also important to highlight the impressive efforts of the staff, including the teachers, aides, therapists and administrators who are always striving to better understand each child and how to best work with individuals and small groups. Providing ongoing training, consultation and reflective supervision supports their remarkable dedication and is essential for the school's functioning. Each day complex medical, developmental and educational challenges are raised and each day the school teams work together to solve problems and move forward.

I appreciate your embracing the DIR®/Floortime philosophy and model as a foundation for your program and believe it will serve your needs. I also applaud the efforts of the Board of Directors and the executive director in carrying out the heroic mission of the school. You are meeting critical needs and I look forward to the development of the Imagine Academy and the expansion of your programs to serve more children as well as providing a future center for training and education for the larger community.

Sincerely,

Serena Wieder, Ph.D.

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Interdisciplinary Council of Developmental and Learning Disorders

