

Child Focus, Inc.

Making **THE** Difference!

www.child-focus.org



Early Learning Programs

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May 3, 2011

To: Abriendo Puertas

Subj: Letter of support for Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors

As a Head Start Director, I know from first hand-experience the importance of quality comprehensive education for young children. After years in the field of early care and education, I embrace the idea that parents are the first and most important teacher a child will have and home is a child's first school. Successfully engaging parents as full partners in their child's education is critical to a child's success in school. Yet family engagement can often be one of the most difficult challenges educators face.

Attending the Abriendo Puertas training offered to the Head Start community was a fantastic opportunity in itself. The training was one of the best organized and most impactful trainings I have attended in a long time. But most importantly the training exposed us to an extraordinary resource to engage families, enhance parenting skills and promote leadership development and advocacy skills.

Latino families represent a large and rapidly growing demographic group in the United States and in our community. Having a culturally relevant parenting program with such impressive and statistically significant results is critical both because of the large potential audience and because of its efficacy. The evaluation of the program is clear. It leads to the results every child advocate and parent educator hopes for. Participants in Abriendo Puertas display significant increases in their:

1. confidence about parenting
2. knowledge about available health services
3. social support and connections in the community
4. community involvement

As a community based organization driven to make the difference for children and families Child Focus, Inc. is eager to adopt this parenting program to empower our families and equip them with the skills and resources to better support their children. We are also committed to share this exceptional program with others in our community and our state as a strategy to ensure children are successful in school an in life.

Thank you for sharing this extraordinary resource and making it available to parent educators nationwide.

Sincerely,

Berta Velilla, Director
Early Learning Programs
Child Focus, Inc.

The mission of Child Focus, Inc. is to join with communities in strengthening families and improving the quality of life for children.