Academy
of Physical & Social Development

Dear Parent,

Please take a few minutes to carefully read this letter regarding your child's upcoming initial interview. We have your child's interview scheduled for _____ with _____.

Please download from our website (www.academynewton.com) forms you need to complete and bring with you to the interview: an ***Initial Interview Data Form, About My Child, Parental Agreement, and Notice of Privacy*** *(If you prefer we mail you these forms please call).* ***Be advised that the initial interview is not a guarantee of placement.***

The initial interview is intended for us to get an in-depth understanding of your child, which will help determine appropriate placement. ***The interview is not a diagnostic evaluation.*** If you have reports, evaluations, educational plans, etc. that you can copy and bring for us to keep, please do so. These materials will help us to get to know your child better and be of more assistance. School reports and psychological and cognitive evaluations are especially helpful.

The interview lasts for approximately one hour and consists of two parts. When you arrive at the Academy a staff member will go into our gym area with your child. Your child will play games and be oriented to what goes on during a group. Your child will then be brought to one of our offices where s/he will play an office game and talk about how the play time went. This time together is designed to help your child feel comfortable at the Academy and allow us to obtain a basic understanding of her/his overall development. It is recommended you bring a favorite book, toy or game so that your child can keep busy if there is any waiting.

While your child is in the gym, you will be meeting with a staff member to discuss your child's needs and history, go over forms, answer questions you have about the Academy and discuss program options. Within a week after the interview, we will call you to inform you which program options are available. **Typically, one of four options might be available: 1) We have an appropriate group with space available. 2) We have an appropriate group that is currently full and your child will be wait-listed for that group. 3) We do not currently have an appropriate group and your child will be placed on the waiting list until we can develop such a group. 4) Participate in individual or parent counseling.**

Your child will probably have questions about the Academy and the interview. We suggest that you tell your child you are coming to the Academy for both of you to see the program. Tell them that s/he will meet a counselor, play some games and then wait while you talk with a counselor. You should also say that you are going to the Academy because it is a place where children go to have fun, learn to get along better with other children, try new things and feel better about themselves. If you and your child have discussed specific issues or

difficulties inform your child that the Academy may be able to help him/her with these issues. We urge you to be forthright about why you are bringing your child to the Academy.

Please note the Academy has two buildings; one ON the street at 425 Watertown, the other is *BEHIND* the 425 Watertown Street building and cannot be seen from the street. Your appointment is in this REAR building. You must use the driveway to the right of the two-story building on the street in order to get to our building. There are several "temporary" parking spaces in front of our door, if no spaces are available park on the street as all other spaces are assigned.

Finally, please remember there is a $175 non-refundable charge for the initial interview. Therefore, in addition to bringing along the enclosed forms, any relevant reports or evaluations, you should bring along a $175 check made out to the Academy.

If you have any further questions, call Jessica Capone, LMHC, Chief Operating Officer, at (617) 969-2200 x 15 or JCapone@academynewton.com, and she will be happy to help you. We look forward to meeting you and your child soon.

Cordially,

Ken Barringer, M.A., LMHC
Director