



**The Ecocultural Factors that Impact Parents' from
Rural Communities
Sustained Engagement in Early Learning Opportunities**



Dear Parent,

I am a third year doctoral student in the Specialized Education Services Department at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. I am completing a study for a requirement, but also because I am passionate about working with families. The information I am gathering will provide agencies and services providers with information about community and cultural factors that impact families in rural areas. In addition, I believe that the information may provide knowledge about increasing opportunities for young children to develop and learn in their home environment.

If your family receives services through the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program (commonly known as early intervention or developmental therapy) and you live in a rural area, I am inviting you to share some of your experiences.

I hope that the information I gather will provide agencies and service providers with information about community and cultural factors that impact families in rural areas. In addition, I believe that the information will provide knowledge about increasing opportunities for young children to develop and learn in their home environment.

As a participant in this study, you will be asked to complete:

- 1) A demographic form
- 2) A survey
- 3) An interview (Note: Once the number of needed volunteers for the interview is reached, additional volunteers will not be able to participate in the interview portion of this study.)

Your completion of the demographic form and survey will take about one hour. If you also participate in the interview, the total time of your participation is expected to be about two hours. Your participation in any part of this research project is voluntary.

As a token of appreciation, you will receive a \$5.00 gift card for participation in the survey portion of this project. If you also participate in the interview portion, you will receive two children's books, in addition to the gift card.

If you have questions:

My name is Katrina Cummings. Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have about the study. My phone number is 919-201-7416. My email address is kpcummin@uncg.edu.

This study has been reviewed and has received ethics clearance from the Institutional Review Board at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.