Dear Joya Families:

I have important information to share with you about our funding, our COVID closure timeline, and some temporary changes for children who are turning three between March and July.

1. In order to access an **important source of funding**, we must collect information on the % of families receiving services at Joya who make less than $53,920 per year ($4,493 month).  Please use the link below to answer a quick, three question survey.  **Your personal information** **will not be shared**.  If you do not respond to the survey using this link, we will be calling to follow up.  It is extremely important that we have 100% participation.  <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NGWM8QK>
2. ESIT (Early Support for Infants and Toddlers), the state agency responsible for early intervention services in Washington, has announced that “Due to the ongoing need for physical distancing, the **temporary suspension of in-person services is extended through June 30, 2020.” Joya will continue to provide all services using tele-health until restrictions are lifted and we can implement a plan to resume in-person services while minimizing exposure to children, families and staff.**
3. All Washington State schools are closed for the remainder of this school year.  As a result, children turning 3 between March and the end of June, will not have access to evaluations or transitions into special education preschools the way they would if schools were open.  We are in the process of reviewing our insurance and Medicaid contracts and contacting local school districts to offer to continue to serve children turning 3 who qualify for school district services.  Your FRC will be contacting you if your child recently turned three or will be turning three before July 2020.  This service will only be offered for a limited time.  Once restrictions are lifted and we begin to see children in-person again, we may not have the availability to continue to see any children over three.  We will offer what we can for as long as we can, and we will communicate any changes as soon as we have a timeline to share.

We realize what a challenging time this is for everyone.  You may be experiencing increased anxiety, fear, worry, sadness, frustration or anger about your child’s developmental delays.  Added stress often magnifies emotions.  If you are in need of support, please tell someone on your child’s care team.  We can offer a listening ear and can usually find resources you may find helpful.  You are not alone.  We are your partners on this journey.

We can’t wait to hear the halls of Joya echoing with happy toddler sounds again.  It is too quiet without our busy little friends!  Take care, stay healthy, and we hope to see you in-person in July.

Colleen Fuchs

Executive Director