

> think he is ready.
>
> Just so you know, we're still trying to find a
> mutually-agreeable day
> and time for all of us to meet.
>
> I know this is difficult for you, too. We all have
> Liam's best
> interests at heart, but at the same time must meet
> the needs of all
> students. We'll keep working together toward that
> goal.
>
> Desi

Subject:	Liam
Date:	Wed, 12 Oct 2005 16:10:37 -0400
From:	"Romeo, Desiree " <Desiree.Romeo@fcps.edu>
To:	"Cheri Smith" <cherismith_98@yahoo.com>
CC:	"Wesley, Anna Z." <Anna.Wesley@fcps.edu>, "Good, Carol J (Special Ed)" <Carol.Good@fcps.edu>, "Vanderhye, Roger D." <Roger.Vanderhye@fcps.edu>, "Sasala, Dona L" <Dona.VaskoSasala@fcps.edu>

Cheri,

Today Liam was having a good morning. He was in a good mood and followed directions most of the time.

However, in line after recess today he hit 7 different children. Prior to the incident, I spoke to him about hitting because I saw him raise his fist. He even replied that he knows hitting is wrong. I thought I had pre-empted an episode, but I was wrong. Some he hit on the back (so they didn't see it coming) and others he hit on the mouth.

When I asked him why he hit these children, he said he was angry because the kids were getting in his face. He doesn't distinguish the difference between their helping him and what he perceives is their

intention.

Needless to say, he will not participate in recess tomorrow and I've told him that. Mrs. Sasala had a talk with him this afternoon as well as Anna at a different time.

To protect the other children, I think we're going to have to keep Liam out of the classroom as much as possible until he can use more self control. However, I know this is going to be difficult as our resources

are stretched very thin. We're going to be discussing this in the coming days to see if it is possible. If we can manage this plan, we will transition Liam back into the classroom when we think he is ready.

Just so you know, we're still trying to find a mutually-agreeable day and time for all of us to meet.

I know this is difficult for you, too. We all have Liam's best interests at heart, but at the same time must meet the needs of all students. We'll keep working together toward that goal.

Desi

Subject: meeting for Liam

Date: Tue, 11 Oct 2005 13:52:44 -0400

From: "Wesley, Anna Z." <Anna.Wesley@fcps.edu>

To: "Cheri Smith" <cherismith_98@yahoo.com>, "Romeo, Desiree " <Desiree.Romeo@fcps.edu>

CC: "Miller, Sloane R." <Sloane.Miller@fcps.edu>, "Good, Carol J (Special Ed)" <Carol.Good@fcps.edu>

Hi,

I'm sorry its taken me so long to get back to you. I think we are all a little worried about Liam. I understand that he is working through some issues, but he has been far less social than he was last year. I'm am very concerned at his increasing violence. I have also noticed that there seems to be a significant decrease in where Liam left off academically last year and where he has started this year.

He just isn't the same Liam that he was in first grade. I'd like for us to meet and discuss what interventions we can put in place as a team so that Liam's day is more consistent and maybe we can pull him out of

this funk, before he gets too behind. I think Thursday or Friday before school is best for Ms. Romeo. When is a good time for you?

Anna

Anna Wesley
Spring Hill E.S.
8201 Lewinsville RD
McLean Virginia 22102
Office: 703.506.3400
Ext.: 703.506.3468

CONFIDENTIALITY WARNING

This message is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Likewise, this message may contain Federal and state governmental documents which are confidential, and the information contained therein may not be disclosed pursuant to applicable Federal and state law. If the reader of the message is not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by telephone and forward this original message to us at the sending address.

Date:	Thu, 6 Oct 2005 15:13:25 -0700 (PDT)
From:	"Cheri Smith" <cherismith_98@yahoo.com>
Subject:	RE: speech
To:	"Romeo, Desiree " <Desiree.Romeo@fcps.edu>
CC:	"Anna Wesley" <anna.wesley@fcps.edu>

Thank you for your response. I know this is taking a lot of your time, and appreciate the communication. I especially appreciate your insight about the increased level of intensity in 2nd grade, something that had not occurred to me.

Hopefully Ms. Wesley feels better soon. I will wait for you to contact me.

Regards,

Cheri

Date:	Wed, 5 Oct 2005 06:03:41 -0700 (PDT)
From:	"Cheri Smith" <cherismith_98@yahoo.com>
Subject:	Re: speech
To:	"Miller, Sloane R." <Sloane.Miller@fcps.edu>, "Ghada Abdelmoumin" <ghada.abdelmoumin@fcps.edu>, "Joanne Batdorff" <joanne.batdorff@fcps.edu>, "Beverly McIlwain" <beverly.mcillwain@fcps.edu>, "Desi Romeo" <dromeo@fcps.edu>, "Dona Sasala" <dona.sasala@fcps.edu>, "Wesley, Anna" <anna.wesley@fcps.edu>

Ms. Miller:

Thanks for letting me know about this, and for responding quickly and letting Liam know that it is not acceptable.

I know I've been slow in responding -please don't interpret this as a lack of interest. I am aware that he has run off at school like this on at least one occasion previous to this incident, so I think it would be safest to assume, for now, that he will run off periodically. He will understand (although he will probably resist) if he is told matter-of-factly that he will have to demonstrate that he can conduct himself in a safe manner before he is allowed to walk through the halls by himself.

To all Liam's teachers and specialists:

I have received several e-mails about Liam's behavior this year, copied to the principal or vice-principal. As far as I can tell, these are about incidents that happened last year, as well, but the level of interest seems to be greater. I would be interested in everyone's assessment whether his behavior is much worse than last year. He is handling himself much better at home than before, and also at his after

school care (although after a rough start) so I'm wondering if the e-mails I'm seeing are because Liam's behavior at school has worsened considerably, or expectations for him have changed, or if there are other factors involved.

I am very concerned about Liam's behavior interfering with his ability to learn, and would like to address it as soon and decisively as possible so that he has a positive experience at school. Ms. Romeo and Ms. Wesley, I still would like very much to meet with both of you, either together or individually. I saw Liam came home with a behavior chart last night, which I think will help, but would like to ask you some questions about that. I know you are busy, and so will work as much as possible around your schedules. I can be reached during the day at 703.676.4709 or 703.732.0431. I only check this Yahoo account in the evenings, but feel free to e-mail me at work: cheri.smith@saic.com

Again, I appreciate everyone's patience and hard work with Liam. I know that he is a challenge (!), but I also think he shows a great deal of potential if he can get past these difficult behaviors.

Cheri

Subject: speech

Date: Fri, 30 Sep 2005 12:30:50 -0400

From: "Miller, Sloane R." <Sloane.Miller@fcps.edu>

To: cherismith_98@yahoo.com

CC: "Sasala, Dona L" <Dona.VaskoSasala@fcps.edu>, "Romeo, Desiree " <Desiree.Romeo@fcps.edu>, "Long, Shirley" <Shirley.Long@fcps.edu>, "Vanderhye, Roger D." <Roger.Vanderhye@fcps.edu>

Hi Cheri,

I hope all is well! I know we haven't yet gotten a chance to speak this year about Liam and how he is doing "speech wise." Up until today, Liam has been doing a really great job with me and has been extremely focused and has been working hard. It seems his articulation may have regressed a bit over the summer, but sometimes this is to be expected. I am confident he will

soon be back to where he was at the end of last year and will demonstrate great strides this year. We are working on articulation and language enhancement. I will periodically send home homework for Liam as carry-over is extremely important (he has homework for this weekend in his bag). Unfortunately, Desi and Anna have expressed to me that Liam has been demonstrating some oppositional behavior recently. Up until today, I have not witnessed this behavior (I see him only 3x a week for half an hour). I thought it was extremely important to let you know what occurred today while Liam was in my presence. I went to get Liam for his regular time for speech from Anna's room and he willingly cleaned up his toys and came to the door to wait for me. As I tried to coax another young girl to come with me, Liam decided to run away from me. I was terrified when Liam was nowhere to be found. He took off very quickly. This CAN NOT occur! On one hand, I want Liam to be independent and walk down the hall by himself, yet on the other hand it is a safety hazard if Liam is running off. I explained to Liam in terms he could understand what the consequences of his actions were. I then felt that he should receive the same punishment as everyone else in the school, so he paid a short visit to Mr. Vanderhye who also reiterated the dangers of running off. I told Liam that we would now have to walk hand in hand (like a "baby") if he couldn't be trusted. Sorry to burden you with this long email, but I thought it was important for you to know what happened today. I hope this does not occur again. Liam did apologize and seemed to understand what he did was wrong. Hope you are doing well and looking forward to speaking with you! Please don't hesitate to email or call me if you have any questions regarding Liam's speech therapy. Thanks so much!

Sloane

Date:	Fri, 30 Sep 2005 05:20:27 -0700 (PDT)
From:	"Cheri Smith" <cherismith_98@yahoo.com>
Subject:	RE: Liam
To:	"Romeo, Desiree " <Desiree.Romeo@fcps.edu>
CC:	"Anna Wesley" <anna.wesley@fcps.edu>

Desi -

Thanks for letting me know. When I talked with him last night, he explained to me why he was sent to talk with Mrs. Long and the consequences of throwing mulch again, so I think he got it.

It sounds like the transition from recess might be easier for him if he has some advance time to prep himself mentally. He just seems to have a really hard time leaving an activity he likes. This is an area where is usually works well to tell him it's time to leave, and then give him a negotiated amount of

additional time. For example, 5 minutes before the end of recess, I would tell him that recess was over and he needed to get in line. When he complains, I would ask him how many more minutes he needed. He'll usually tell me 3-4 minutes (if he needs too many, I'll tell him what the limit is); after that time, when I tell him time is up, he's usually more willing to leave.

If it's something where I can't give him an advance warning, I'll explain to him what I need him to do (line up), that he has until the count of three to comply, and what the consequence will be if he doesn't (such as missing recess time). Then I'll count to three, "Please line up one, please line up two..) This often works, too.

Next week, I am open on Tuesday afternoon, all day Wednesday before 4:00, and all day Thursday.

Regards,

Cheri

Subject:	RE: Liam
Date:	Thu, 29 Sep 2005 16:08:50 -0400
From:	"Romeo, Desiree " <Desiree.Romeo@fcps.edu>
To:	"Cheri Smith" <cherismith_98@yahoo.com>
CC:	"Wesley, Anna Z." <Anna.Wesley@fcps.edu>, "Vanderhye, Roger D." <Roger.Vanderhye@fcps.edu>, "Sasala, Dona L" <Dona.VaskoSasala@fcps.edu>, "Batdorff, Joanne" <Joanne.Batdorff@fcps.edu>

Cheri,

Liam was having a wonderful morning today. No oppositional behavior whatsoever. However, this afternoon when I called the class to line up at recess, Liam began throwing mulch at two boys who were trying to coax him into line. This is a daily routine and the kids always try to help me encourage Liam to follow. It takes a lot of urging every day. Today

Liam continued to throw the mulch, even after I shouted (I was about 20 feet away) for him to stop. After reading your e-mail this morning when

you suggested treating Liam the same as I would others, I took him to the assistant principal's office. Mrs. Long had a talk with him and told him that he will start losing recess if this behavior happens again.

I am happy to sit down and speak with you, but the days you suggested are booked up for me. Do you have any other days later next week (except Friday). What are good times?

Desi

Date:	Thu, 29 Sep 2005 05:37:32 -0700 (PDT)
From:	"Cheri Smith" <cherismith_98@yahoo.com>
Subject:	Re: Liam
To:	"Romeo, Desiree " <Desiree.Romeo@fcps.edu>
CC:	"Wesley, Anna Z." <Anna.Wesley@fcps.edu>, "Vanderhye, Roger D." <Roger.Vanderhye@fcps.edu>, "Dona Sasala" <dona.sasala@fcps.edu>, "Joanne Batdorff" <joanne.batdorff@fcps.edu>

Desi -

Thanks for letting me know about this. I am very concerned about it, and agree that it should not be tolerated and must be dealt with quickly. I talked to him about it last night, so please let me know how it goes today. I would also welcome an opportunity to talk to you and his other teachers about this. I am available this afternoon, any time tomorrow, or Monday afternoon. I can be reached at 703-732-0431.

Just to let you know, this has been a persistent problem that escalated over the summer with his day camp. However, it seems to be limited to environments where he has to deal with his peers as a group.

What would be done to deal with this if it were a child without a disability? I think in this department whatever would happen with another child

might be the best thing for Liam, too. Liam understands what he is doing. I believe he is capable of controlling it. I just don't think he is motivated to stop the behavior.

I have tried dealing with it with logic and reasoning, appealing to his empathy, and negative and positive reinforcement, and none of these seem to have had an impact. The only thing that has seemed to diminish the behavior at home is letting him know immediately, very firmly and directly while maintaining eye contact, that hitting, pinching or biting will not be tolerated, period.

He has consistently said that he hits other children because he wants space. I have watched other children with Liam, and as a rule they have been warm, supportive and accepting. For some reason, he is interpreting their actions negatively, even when they are trying to help him.

He told me yesterday he doesn't want to go to specials, he just wants to stay in Ms. Wesley's class.

I don't know whether it's feasible or not, but minimizing his contact with his peers for the short term might at least keep them from getting hurt.

Please let me know what I can do to support your efforts in preventing any further incidents.

Regards,

Cheri

Subject: Liam

Date: Wed, 28 Sep 2005 15:56:26 -0400

From: "Romeo, Desiree " <Desiree.Romeo@fcps.edu>

To: "Cheri Smith" <cherismith_98@yahoo.com>

CC: "Wesley, Anna Z." <Anna.Wesley@fcps.edu>, "Vanderhye, Roger D." <Roger.Vanderhye@fcps.edu>

Cheri,

I hope you are doing well. I wanted to keep you apprised as much as I can on how Liam is faring in school.

As we discussed before, Liam continues to exhibit oppositional behavior and still resists doing school work. Lately, however, he has been violent toward other children who are trying to help, not provoke him. Yesterday, in the span of 1 1/2 hours, he hit, pinched, and bit three different students.

The first incident happened in the lunch room. He began hitting another child so the aide removed him from the lunch table and had him eat away from everyone.

The second incident occurred on the playground. He pinched a little girl from another class very hard on her neck. She was quite upset so I sent her to the clinic. I spoke to Liam about his behavior and tried to put him in the little girl's position. I asked him if he would like someone to pinch him really hard on the neck. He apologized to her, gave her a hug, and said he wouldn't do it again.

The third incident happened a few minutes later as we entered school. A boy was trying to help Liam keep up with the class by holding his hand. Liam bit the boy on his arm.

This behavior concerns me a great deal. Liam gives no warning that he's about to hurt someone so it's very difficult to stop it before it happens. I'm worried that he might continue to behave in this manner.

Do you have any suggestions that could help prevent the violence? We need to take preventative action on this right away.

Desi

Date:	Tue, 20 Sep 2005 18:10:27 -0700 (PDT)
From:	"Cheri Smith" <cherismith_98@yahoo.com>
Subject:	RE: Liam Smith
To:	"Wesley, Anna Z." <Anna.Wesley@fcps.edu>

Ms Wesley -

I don't think I have any problems with Liam being the subject for this project. I think it may be very helpful - he has so much potential if he can manage his behavior appropriately. I did have some questions for you: