

To: Erika Zynda in the Office of Research

From: Ni Chang and Susan Cress

Re: Final Report on the project of Purposeful Dialogues between Parent and Child about A Child's Drawing in the Promotion of Language and Literacy

Account #22-566-57

1. Description of grant-supported activity

--- This qualitative pilot study examined in what way a contextualized dialogue between a parent and child focusing on a child's drawing helped develop a child's language and literacy skills. Participants were four parents and children (four dyads). Prior to interactions, all the parents received the same oral and written information that allowed them to solicit as much information about drawings as possible. Each parent launched and tape-recorded a conversation when the child either completed or was in the process of producing a drawing at home. All the conversations were then transcribed, read, re-read, coded, categorized, and sorted according to the Halliday's Model of Language Functions (1973) as well as language and literacy skill development related information cited by Otto (2006). The study found that varying lengths of conversations from as short as several seconds to as long as nearly twenty minutes were opportunities for children to listen to questions and comments, to think, to express insights, to ask questions, to gain the awareness of print, and to engage in a preliminary writing activity (drawing). The findings encourage parents (as well as early childhood teachers) to take a renewed look at children's drawings in order to enhance their language and literacy gains.

2. Were you able to complete the project? Describe any difficulty you had.

----Yes. We were able to complete the project.

3. Did, or will, the project result in a specific product -- a manuscript, composition, syllabus, etc? If so, please describe and indicate state of development.

The project resulted in a session at a national conference of the National Association of the Education of Young Children. Revisions are being made to an article to be submitted to a journal in the field of early childhood.