

SAMPLE LETTER TO MOTHER

Date

Dear Mrs. _____:

Thank you very much for your continued participation in the Maternal PKU Resource Mothers Study. You are helping us find out what kinds of supports are most helpful to women with PKU. By allowing us to evaluate you and your baby, you are also helping us find out whether supports make a difference in the long run.

You were administered the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale - Third Edition. This is a standard test that identifies a person's strengths and weaknesses in areas such as vocabulary, arithmetic, reasoning, memory and visual-motor speed. In all areas, you performed well within the average range. You had strengths in the areas of vocabulary and memory. You had relative difficulties on the arithmetic subtest, particularly when word problems became more complex or when calculations involved fractions.

Your son was evaluated when he was 12 months old. He appeared to be an alert, sociable and curious little boy. During this evaluation, he was cooperative, engaged and cheerful. He appeared to enjoy the variety of test materials and focused his attention very well for a child his age.

He clapped when he thought he had done well and simply dumped the toys or blocks when he thought the task was uninteresting or too difficult. Both responses are entirely normal for babies his age.

His spontaneous verbalizations were limited, but his ability to gesture to make his wishes known was well developed.

On the Bayley Scales of Infant Development, your son passed items up to the 12-month level on the Mental Scale. He turned pages in a book, imitated sounds, built a tower of two blocks, and put a peg in a pegboard. He did not yet point to pictures or place blocks in a cup when asked to do so. However, he seemed very interested in the materials and tried very hard to figure out what we were asking him to do.

On the Bayley Motor Scale, he again passed items through the 12-month level. He walked, threw a ball, and squatted down. He seemed to have good balance and excellent coordination. He seems eager to "get up and go" on his own.

Overall, his performance was well within the average range. He may soon enjoy looking at pictures in picture books, learning simple songs with hand motions, and playing simple games, such as finding hidden objects. He is ready to work on simple puzzles and shape sorters. Even though he is too young to repeat after you, he is ready to listen to stories, poems, songs, counting games, and the alphabet. The more language he hears, the better. In the motor area, he will enjoy exploring on his own and learning to independently use play equipment, such as the swing and slide. Jumbo crayons and a paint brush may be fun, too, although you will need to watch that he isn't too messy!

In general, he is developing very nicely. You seem to be doing a good job providing him with stimulation and structure.

Once again, thanks for your participation. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the results of his evaluation any further, please do not hesitate to contact me or the Coordinator of the Resource Mothers Study. Best wishes for a pleasant summer.

Sincerely,