

Unknown

From: Mason, Janice L (GOV) [/O=SOA/OU=FIRST ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=JLMASON]
Sent: Monday, April 21, 2008 4:52 PM
To: 'fek9wnr@yahoo.com'
Subject: FW: Congrats

-----Original Message-----

From: WebMail@gov.state.ak.us [mailto:WebMail@gov.state.ak.us]

Sent: Monday, April 21, 2008 10:05 AM

To: Governor Sarah Palin (GOV sponsored)

Subject: Other

Web mail from: Ms. Margaret Pfeiffer

address: 8341 Paine Road Anchorage AK 99516

345-9237

MESSAGE:

Dear Governor Palin,

I wanted to congratulate you on the birth of your baby boy. I was so pleased to see your statement in the paper of gratitude and reliance on God, because this is the perfect approach to enjoying the roller coaster ups and downs of becoming a parent of a child with exceptionalities. The Amish have a saying that special children are a gift from God - to teach us how to love. I remember reading a pro-life article some time ago that you authored and I remember thinking how well you stated your position. Now I admire what you wrote so much more because of your own commitment to welcome this new life, your integrity in living what you believe. I am also a parent of a ten-year old, child who experience challenges. He has taught me a great deal. Often the lessons seem to be counter - intuitive. (Here comes another mom's unsolicited free advice.) I would like to pass along a few things that have worked for us. Ask lots of questions and use what works. Your child will show you how to help him learn. Keep your sense of humor. Take expert opinions with equal amounts of skepticism, especially when they talk about a child's capacities and the things he will not be able to do. You are the expert on our child and trust your intuitions. Notice and enjoy every single step of growth and development. Each new ability means new skills may follow. Each is a gift that may open other doors, and more opportunities. I have realized that I can support my son in many ways, but he will do things when he is ready, not necessarily when peers do them, or when I want him to do them. Share growth with others so they can feel the hope it represents and celebrate too. The Wahoo - high five moments are great. My son has taught me to spend more time in the present, not looking back or too far forward. Teaching my son sign language early was a tremendous blessing because he still lacks the coordination to speak very many words, but can sign many of his ideas. Signing reduces

frustration for every one and when words come they are a welcome!

In addition to a dialogue already underway. My son taught us how important physical movement is to a baby; swinging, dancing, rocking, and spinning. Even if a child cannot move independently these physical movements provided by others, will prepare him to move on his own in the future. For my son (who experts said lacked a balance center, others labeled damaged, and intensive needs) the movement of swinging and spinning, increased his neural interconnectivity and meant a boy never expected to walk, now enjoys long hikes. I have learned that discernment is necessary in this process, and that prayer is the most important thing. It helps me rely more fully on God's grace each day. May God richly bless you, your family and your new baby.

Margaret Pfeiffer

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