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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** RILEY  
**SUBJECT:** CLAIBORNE BARKSDALE & DR. CATHY GRACE: REQUEST TO MEET WITH YOU TO DISCUSS EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVES  
**DATE:** 1/21/2002  
**CC:** FILE

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Claiborne Barksdale of the Barksdale Reading Institute and Dr. Cathy Grace of MSU's Early Childhood Institute, have requested that I convey their request to meet with you for 30 minutes to discuss the following two early childhood initiatives:

1. The Barksdale Institute's pilot program in West Point daycare centers, which is being coordinated by Dr. Grace's staff. This pilot is being expanded to Greenville daycare centers with the assistance of funding from the Kellogg Foundation. Barksdale conveyed to me that if these pilots are successful and produce the intended results, the Institute is very interested in taking the project statewide.
2. An initiative to develop a model early childhood program for the typical Mississippi community. Childcare advocates have come together to develop this initiative, which has received marketing assistance from the Chevron Corp. on the Coast. Steve Renfro of Chevron is working with this group and Chevron has hired the Godwin Group to work with the initiative. Parents for Public Schools, Operation Shoestring, Rep. Eloise Scott, MSU's Cooperative Extension Service and Head Start have all been involved, as well as other advocates such as Carol Burnett and Oleta Fitzgerald.

Barksdale and Grace would like to invite Steve Renfro of Chevron to attend the meeting with them if you agree to meet with them.

Grace and Renfro both attended the Leadership Summit on Higher Education and were very pleased to see the Steering Committee's recommendation regarding early childhood education. I think a meeting with Barksdale, Grace and Renfro would convey that we recognize the importance of this area and would earn you points with the early childhood advocates.

Do you want to meet with Claiborne Barksdale, Cathy Grace and Steve Renfro?

Yes       \_\_\_\_\_       No       \_\_\_\_\_