

# Clackamas County Children's Commission

## Ashley and Isaiah

My name is Ashley and my son Isaiah has been in the Head Start preschool for two years. This was his last year with Head Start and next year he will be starting kindergarten. Two years ago I found myself going from being a stay at home mom to a single mom working and going to school. When I called Head Start to see about getting my son enrolled into the program, I was nervous. I had a lot on my plate and wasn't sure how long the process would take or, how difficult it would be to get accepted. I was relieved at how quickly they were able to get him started even though the school year had already began.



At first Isaiah was really shy but the teachers he had were excellent at sitting with him and making him feel comfortable being in a new place. While he was in school I was able to focus on my homework. Being able to do that for a few hours a



day took a tremendous amount of stress off my shoulders. Not only that but, seeing my son succeed in a preschool setting made me extremely proud and happy for him. Isaiah was learning great social skills and was being introduced to important academics that have been preparing him for kindergarten.

Last December I graduated from college with a bachelor degree in social and behavioral studies. Having that extra time during the day while Isaiah was at preschool kept me on track with my schooling and other important things in my life. I am also a current employee with Head Start as a substitute family advocate. Head Start has opened many doors for me and my family, and for that I am grateful. I feel confident with my son going into kindergarten because of the experience and skills he has learned from being in the Head Start preschool .

