



A Head Start Success Story

My name is Adena and I am the proud mom of 2 awesome kiddos. My son David is 15 and my daughter Sophia is a threenager, soon to be 4 in December. I am a combat veteran who served 5 years in the United States Marine Corps. We are a Head Start Family and we ARE a Head Start success story.

Head Start gave me a voice when I didn't have one during a dark time in my life. I was homeless and trying to keep a roof over myself and my daughters head by couch surfing from place to place. Head Start taught me how to advocate for my daughter who needed speech and behavioral therapy. She had all of the words in her head but just couldn't get it out of her mouth. Her inability to communicate caused her to act out. As a side note, two weeks ago I was told that my daughter no longer needed behavioral therapy, and her speech is on track to catch up before kindergarten.



My family advocate encouraged and helped motivate me to reach for my goals and to seek out a new career. Just recently, after training for 2 years, I was offered a position in the career field I was training for through a program called Job Smart.

Recently, this past September, I used my newly found voice to advocate on behalf of the entire state of Oregon for Head Start in Washington D.C. I spoke to many elected officials and advocated for our children and families just like Head Start did for me.

Head Start gave me my voice, health, and life back.

~ Adena, Former Program Parent & Community Representative