

OHS 50th Anniversary: Families are Powerful Partners

[Music] [Titles]

Terrie Demonie: Words of advice that I give to many parents is: "Always be the parent that you always wanted; always be the teacher that you always wanted, and always be there for your child." Our children are like a computer: The more input you put into your children, the more output later in life you're going to get from them.

Arlene R. Cura: Head Start helps us grow; Head Start helps us know what family is about; Head Start builds in families; and Head Start does the marvelous thing that no other teachers do. That Head Start commits to go out to the home; they help the family; they see where the family is at.

Katrina S: There's parents who have good intentions they love their children they want the best for their kids. They let me know that they want the same thing for their kids that I want for mine.

Jeanne Dickhausen: I think that when I first became a Head Start parent, I thought it was all about my daughter, and I didn't realize that it was really about me, too. And some of the people that really made an impact in my life were my daughter's teachers. Just making me feel like I was a person, and that I had something to offer.

Amanda Fields: I feel much more powerful and that I do have an influence and role in my child's life and in my life, and I can do whatever I want to do with my world thanks to Head Start.

Kim Brick: I was chair of my policy council. Being involved with the policy council empowered me. It helped me see my potential. Showed me what it was like to be a leader. I went to college after I was involved with Head Start and after I was involved with the policy council. It was a wonderful, wonderful experience.

Lourdes Villanueva: As a parent you come in not knowing, I mean, you just go in thinking they're going to teach them something just teach the kids and keep them safe.

So, that was basically all we were expecting. But it was really much more than that. I mean they started inviting me to parent meetings, inviting me to parent trainings and it was, you know, just one of those things that I felt that I was learning just as much as the kids were.

Flora Sanchez: I've seen a parent who is very quiet and then the next year start going for a position in the elections. You know now they're, maybe they can see that, maybe, they can hold a position as a president or vice-president, secretary. And then from there they go to the policy council and now you've seen how they've grown. I've seen them just blossom and grow so much that they're able now to make appointments for themselves. Or go to the doctor, because, maybe now they've learned to tell the doctor my child is sick or my child has a stomach ache. You see how we've been able to work with our families to make them become advocates for themselves.

Gilbert Venture: The most important thing I've learned as a parent at Head Start is to focus and be a part of your child's education. Head Start's changed my family in the way that we view life in a different perspective. We have dreams that we're going to try to accomplish. I'm pretty sure with the help of Head Start, our kids will have dreams and be accomplished.

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