

36th Annual National Head Start Training Conference Parent Interview: Fabiola Grullon

(links for viewing and download at end of transcript)

Jarma Wrihten: Hi Fabiola. How are you today? Fabiola Grullon: Hi, fine. I'm happy. [Laughter] Jarma: Yes, you are. Welcome to the Parent Place at the ECLKC. We're happy to have you here. Fabiola: Thank you.

Jarma: I was so happy when I met you outside, just to ask you to come in and share your Parent-as-Teacher in the home stories, and talk about what you do with your child, and how you help him learn at home, or her. And so, tell us a little about your son or daughter, and what Head Start Program he goes to.

Fabiola: Okay, I have two sons, two children -- one of them is 9 months, this is Carson -- and the one is Iam, he's three-and-a-half right now, and I was really happy to find Head Start Program because, you know, I'm -- I care about my babies and I was trying to do my best by myself. I raised them from the day they were born, and it is important for me, you know, to enhance their intentions -- their, you know, knowledge and I do a lot of things for them [laughter], like, you know, I read all -- everything, a book before they go to bed.

When I do outside with them, I try to, you know -- the way they perceive the thing around world, like the trees, like the color of the things. If a car is running, I try to -- you know, to point at the wheels and say, "Oh, do you know what is this? This is a wheel, but what shape is this?" And, "This is a circle, and do you know why the circle can roll? And why? It is because it is not a square, it is a circle; a circle can roll." And stuff like that -- I can, you know, I try to do my best trying, you know, as they perceive the things around them.

Jarma: Well, that sounds like fun, and that's a really good time to have together time because when you're walking down the street, you're looking at all environmental things around you, and the natural things, so the children are learning as you're spending that together time with them. If you had to share your story with other parents about how Head Start has helped you become more involved with your child and your child's learning, what would you tell other parents?

Fabiola: Well, everybody in Head Start care about my children: teacher, program director, social worker -- they all try to support me like a mother. And they are, you know, watching my children development, and they try to give me the resource that I need in order to help my children grow up healthy in all area. So whatever thing happens about, you know, behavior or knowledgement, everything they give me -- their resource that in order I need, you know, to help them to grow up.

But the most important thing for me is, I can follow up that program, you know, attend by week, by month. Now I have, you know, I know what to do with them, because I do everything by myself in my home, you know, I draw, I use painter, I don't know how to say that, but the point is that I know how to follow-up program now. You know, this is fine for me.

Jarma: So Head Start's really been a benefit for you. So how are you involved in Head Start now? I see you're wearing some proud badges about cognitive discipline and creating their nurturing environment for your child. You're going to those sessions? And so, Head Start has helped you, because now you're -- what role are you in Head Start? Are you in the Policy Council?

Fabiola: Of course, yes. For me it is important to be involved, you know, it's -- my childrens are my best value right now, so I want to be involved. That's why I take the challenge to be part of the Policy Council, parent. That's why they give me that huge opportunity to come in here and to learn. You know, that is a really big gift for me, because I'm going to have more tools to work with my children.

Jarma: Okay, it sounds like it's fun and you're enjoying it! Fabiola: Of course! Jarma: So if you had to leave us right

now, or leave other parents right now, what would be the one thing you might say to them, or several things you might say to them -- some tips that you would tell other parents about being their child's first and most important teacher, or just being a really good parent and a teacher?

Fabiola: The most important thing for parents is -- the only thing I can think I can say for them is, "Be involved." Be involved in everything your child -- they present for you. This is the most important -- that give you the opportunity, you know, to learn, you know, to know what happen in Head Start program, you know, the opportunity you have like a parent, you can take a position, and stuff like that.

So, "Be involved" is the most important thing if you have a child in a Head Start program. Jarma: Okay. So, what would you like to see Head Start become in the future? What do you see for Head Start down the road?

Fabiola: [Laughs] Well, I am so thankful about Head Start, you know, I am so happy to find a program like that!
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-- Premalink for viewing (requires Flash and javascript)

<http://videos.sorensonmedia.com/HEAD+START/000112-Fabiola+Grullon+Parent+Interview-2009-SD360p/73e53cf7p5395y446dHa8c6G693f23d2d8c1>