

(links for viewing and download at end of transcript)

Anthony Wigfall: Well first, my name is Anthony Wigfall, and I have a daughter in Head Start and she's three years old. Her name is Queen Wigfall and she attends the Roosevelt Freeport center. And I'm actually the Policy Council chairman for the whole Nassau County of Long Island, New York. And my experience pretty much is a interesting one because I started out when my son was in the Head Start program last year, and I wasn't expecting to really get involved in Head Start because I really didn't know too much about it at first.

It was like I just got involved with it. And when I went to the -- it was a parent conference -- it was a parent meeting that I had to go to, and it was the first parent meeting that I went to for any of the kids. So it was interesting, and I made a point that I had to be there. And then when I went there, they were doing elections for president and vice-president and secretary for the -- for the center for the Policy Council. So when the lady asked... Well first, she went through all the technicalities of it and how everything is done, and then she asked who would like to be nominated or who would like to nominate themselves and nobody wanted to step up to the plate.

So I decided to do it, not really knowing what I was getting into. But I figured I'd give it a shot in order to be in my son's life and see where everything was going as far as the Head Start, because it was a new program that I wasn't too sure about or didn't really know too much about. So I figured if I was involved, then I would get that hands-on experience, as well as being more in my son's life.

The advice that I would give to other fathers to be more involved in the Head Start program is that your child is most important in life, regardless. Because you're an adult, you pretty much lived your life. Once you have a child, your life is pretty much not your life anymore, it's all about the child's life 'cause they're supposed to be your predecessor. They're supposed to do better than you are.

So as long as you have a active involvement in their life and you know what's going on... And you know how to direct them more than anybody else would, so that'll be better for you to take that step and just be a man and take care of your responsibilities and do the right thing.

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-- Premalink for viewing (requires Flash and javascript)

<http://videos.sorensonmedia.com/HEAD+START/000014-Antony+Wigfall+Parent+interview-2009-Year-SD360p/1b62a869T29f5G4eb9uae76M2c0d197543c2>