

Parents and Families of Prince William County Head Start, Manassas, VA - Parent Interview: Jennifer Marth

(links for viewing and download at end of transcript)

Jennifer Marth: My name is Jennifer Marth. My Head Start story starts seven years ago when my daughter was in the Head Start program in Neabsco Elementary School in Prince William County. I attended a parent meeting and was asked by Pat Robbins, our parent involvement specialist then, to take over on Policy Council for a parent that never showed up. From there I served for a year as the classroom representative, for two years as the chair on Policy Council.

I was asked to get my sub card and begin substituting in the classroom by our education specialist because she was in need of subs. And I had been subbing in the classroom so much and volunteered in the classroom, and also did some things at the office, I eventually was called in and asked to fill in for someone that had moved their position in the Head Start office. From there I worked for a month or so and was asked about applying for the position that opened up for health and nutrition assistant.

And even though I was a little reluctant, I did apply at the last minute and interviewed and was given that position, and have been officially with Head Start for a year. Being involved in your child's life is the most important thing; you are their first teacher. Being in Head Start is phenomenal for the child. And I do remember when my daughter started kindergarten that her teacher came to me asked her how she knew all the different parts of a book and all these other things that she knew that none of the other children did, and that was all thanks to Head Start.

And being involved in the classroom, and involved as much as you can with your child, does lead to success further on in life, not only for the child but also for yourself. I'm a prime example of that because if I had never gotten involved in Head Start, I wouldn't be where I am today, where I feel I can at least be a role model to other parents or at least let them see that you may not be doing anything right now but further on down the road you never know. Took me seven years to get here, but I'm here.

The best advice for other parents would be to be involved with your child and to make sure you know what they're doing, and to help them and to keep an eye on how things are going with them. One thing I did want to say is that Head Start not only affects the child, it affects the entire family, and it can change lives. It can affect the entire family because it gives you different opportunities to learn things through the parent classes that they offer, and through the different opportunities just from little things that are done. It really all adds up.

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-- Premalink for viewing (requires Flash and javascript)

<http://videos.sorensonmedia.com/HEAD+START/000145-Jennifer+Marth+Parent+Interview-2011-SD360p/0b37e4dc442a61494bX93d7w9b178c99aacc>