

Charting the Course for Parent and Family Engagement in Head Start Forum, Washington, DC: Parent Interview: Clara Owens

(links for viewing and download at end of transcript)

Clara Owens: Hi, my name is Clara Owens. I'm from Bridgeport, Connecticut. I am a grandparent at ABCD, Inc. I have a three-year-old grandson that attends the program. It's a very good program. My daughter, she dropped the ball with enrolling him, and I picked up the ball. And I'm glad I did because it is teaching me, as well as my grandson, how to be a productive citizen. There's an old saying that they say, that you're never too old to learn; and when I got involved with the program, it was so true.

I would recommend ABCD to any child, parent, grandparent that's raising their child, to enroll in Early Head Start. To me, it's a beginning -- it was a beginning for Tyler's life. He's learned a lot. He teaches me a lot, as well as the program itself. I would recommend it, again, as I said. I am currently active in the program. I am on the Policy Council there. I've been there for two years. I have one more year there, and I'm just so happy to be a part of that program.

It has taught me how to interact with my grandson at an early age, and it is -- is never too late to learn, even from children. They -- they -- my grandson is teaching me things that I did not know, and I am so excited about that, and I look forward to him moving on. And with the program, even though my grandson will be moving on and transitioning out, I will still be there to help carry on with the Early Head Start. I'm very grateful for what they have taught me, the things that they have given me, that will be a part of my life forever.

So I encourage grandmothers, moms, dads -- I encourage everyone, if you have a young child, to get into Early Head Start, and you will never go wrong because it will take you further down the road, even into our college years. We will never forget Early Head Start.

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-- Premalink for viewing (requires Flash and javascript)

<http://videos.sorensonmedia.com/HEAD+START/000066-Clara+Owens+Parent+Interview-2010-SD360p/fb18d2b9Ife2dq40ea38327gb3b52e9b1e46>