

[Bernie Bradley speaking] "I can remember it, it was like yesterday. I remember the first book I was given....which was great, because I couldn't afford any books, giving us books and sitting there behind our little desks and reading. I can remember that. It was just such a pivotal point in my life."

[President L.B. Johnson speaking] "Today we are able to announce that we will have open and we believe operating this summer, coast to coast, some 2,000 child development centers... This means that nearly half the preschool children of poverty will get a head start on their future."

Teacher: "Is that the same as this?"

Children: "Yes."

[Polly Greenberg speaking] "From the absolute beginning, Head Start was never intended as just a preschool. The emphasis was on comprehensive services, nutrition, health screening, health care, social services, new careers for the parents with training and income, helping people get out of the cycle of poverty and that includes energizing, giving people confidence that they can do this and it's one step at a time."

[Bernie Bradley speaking] "I was the only one to attend Head Start and my sister who's two years older than I am, the huge difference it made. We have two people who grew up in the same house in the same circumstances and I was the person who excelled at school. I am the person who went on to college. I am the person that started my own business. I truly believe that I had a better opportunity for success than she did because I got to go to Head Start."

[Joy Trejo speaking] "The children that we serve in Early Head Start range between 0 to 3. You will see a lot of free play, you'll see a lot of the teachers verbally and physically interacting with the children and encouraging social interaction. We serve women who are pregnant, as well. A lot of it is prenatal education, not only what are things to avoid but what can you do to make sure that your child comes out healthy."

Teacher: "Is that a house for you or your doggie?"

[Trejo speaking] "In our Head Start classroom we serve children 3 to 5."

Teacher: "Can I borrow your knife?"

[Trejo speaking] "You'll see a lot more interactive play."

"All of this to help them develop all of their skills and really reach their own developmental milestones because our goal is to make sure that they arrive to kindergarten ready to learn. We also have a home visitor teacher option. The goal is to really help that parent understand how to develop their child on a day to day, week to week basis."

Teacher: "What's this number? Two horses in the shade of a tree..."

[Yvette Sanchez Fuentes speaking] "You can find a Head Start Program in every county in the United States, you can find them in large cities, you can find them in small rural communities, on

tribal reservations, and in farm worker camps and it meets the needs of those kids and those families every day."

Teacher: "How can you tell what happens? Look at the picture."

[Edgiton Farquharson speaking] "They're my kids. One of them, my grandson. If I had known about Head Start like I know about it now, all the kids would have been Head Start babies. The camaraderie, the warmth, it is a breath of fresh air. Because you know your child is getting everything that they have, the teachers are giving it their 100%."

[Farquharson speaking at the Policy Council] "I'd like to have a motion to approve the report for hiring. Hirings are approved."

[Greenberg speaking] "A very, very important element of Head Start was the concept of maximum feasible participation of parents. People have to be involved in determining what programs they need and in running them. You don't do things for people. You don't do things to people. If you do, they're still disempowered."

[Farquharson speaking]: "At first you know I could not speak in front of anyone."

[At the Policy Council] You need a strong father beside these children.

It got rid of my shyness. I can advocate for someone just like I advocate for the kids."

[Yvette Rodriguez speaking] "Our dream is that whatever we help them develop while they are here in Head Start, it's skills and activities that they could carry on through the life of the children, through their education and their career."

[Mei-Hua Fu speaking] "We have 120 children and family here."

[Chef speaking to a classroom] "This is a picture of the food pyramid and it helps us know what the different types of food groups are."

[Fu speaking] "The cooking workshop really is a great example of what kind of support family need."

Chef: "We are going to make a recipe that uses food from all of these different food groups."

Chef: "Excellent!"

[Cynthia Quinteros speaking] "I don't know like I guess since I'm still a teenager, you tend to not want to play with your kid as much... You gotta press the button, press the button."

[A Teacher in the classroom] "Good morning, how are you? Give him space. Gentle touches, gentle touches."

[Cynthia Quinteros speaking] "I learned about the gentle touches technique which is basically when a kid like they're fighting, they'll just tell them like...Angel, you have to use gentle touches. I see how they interact with him and it motivates you to want to play with them more. If it wasn't

for Head Start I probably would have dropped out and been a single mother at home with nothing. My plans after high school is to become a registered nurse, so it will allow me to get even a higher education than high school."

Teacher: "What color is our paper?"

"Black."

Teacher: "And what are we going to do with the circles?"

[A woman speaking in Spanish] "When Herman was little, he was speaking few words."

[Froilan Mendoza speaking] "He was immediately referred to our Special Ed department to be assessed and it was found out that he had some speech and language delays."

[Martha Reyes speaking in Spanish] "Through Head Start, we were able to obtain some occupational therapy for him. He has improved a lot. He can communicate with everybody without thinking he won't be able to do it."

[Marshell Jones speaking] "They work long hours and they don't get to spend a lot of time with their children. We do hearing and vision screenings here. Last season, we had a little boy whose vision was so bad, we just couldn't believe he was actually walking around. When he first came back into the center the day with the glasses, he was like 'Oh my god! The letters are big!' And, you know, it's got to make you think this child has been walking around for four years, or less, and could barely see."

[Lourdes Villanueva speaking] "As a parent you come in not knowing, I mean you just go thinking that they're just gonna teach them something and keep them safe. But it was really much more than that. I mean they started inviting you to parent meetings, inviting you 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."

I went back to night school and I finally got my GED. The executive director came to my graduation and said, 'O.K. when do you start college?' I'm like, I just finished school. I thought I was done. She was like 'Oh no, no, no mi'jita, when are you starting college?'

As parents we learn to be advocates for our own kids. What I think that Head Start has done for my children is that they were able all three of them to finish school, go to college and that they are contributing citizens. I honestly believe that that has to do with the start that they had, the Head Start."

[Robert Goslin speaking] "An activity that we do here at our early childhood center once a week is we have what we call a traditional Pow Wow. It brings families together to share, to visit, to dance together in our traditions."

Father: "Well, Ga Wee is a favorite word."

Goslin: "It means?"

Father: "No! But also at the same time there's a lot of hugs."

Goslin: "As fatherhood coordinator, I will seek out dads and talk to them and encourage them to become involved in our program. [speaking to the Father] And what kind of challenges are you dealing with now?"

Father: "Well, mostly just trying to keep up with him."

Goslin: "I can actually sit down with a dad and hold a conversation about their infant, the different stages that the infant is going through and be able to help that dad work through some of those kinds of issues that they may be having trouble with."

[Sue Roberts speaking] "I had separated from my ex-husband at the time and we'd had to move into subsidized housing, umm. A lot of depression issues. Jessica at three years old was spending a lot of time taking care of me. She thought that was her job, was to take care of me and help take care of her sisters. And it was Head Start that showed me I was good enough to take care of myself. I had all these people coming to me, our director and our parent involvement coordinator saying, 'Wow, you're a great person and you've got a lot of skills' and it just boosted my confidence. Head Start is big on hiring parents and I think that's why they are so compassionate, is because they know what it's like to be on the other end."

"If you are worried about getting food on the table, having heat in your house, the last thing you're thinking about is reading a book or brushing your child's teeth. The foundation that the kids are receiving--a lot of the things they're not getting at home, family meals, and so these are things the kids are getting in Head Start."

[Nancy Miller speaking] "Monday mornings a lot of the kids come in really hungry..."

[Child responding to food being placed on the table] "...Ahh..."

[Miller speaking] "You know they are going home with a full tummy from school and that is a good thing. And you know hopefully they're getting something at supertime, a good meal at supertime, but a lot of these kids are in challenging situations at home."

Teacher: "What number is this?"

Girl: "1-2-3-4."

Teacher: "Very good. Let's do the 4. Very good, very good!"

[Yvette Sanchez Fuentes speaking] "Head Start for me means giving kids and families an opportunity. For me it means that every child and every family, no matter the condition that they are born into has an opportunity to make their dreams come true."

[Polly Greenberg speaking] "To me Head Start means the community at all levels cares about you and your children. We are a giant family."

[Bernie Bradley speaking] "I don't think I would be here today, where I am and be as successful as I am had it not been for Head Start."

[Edgiton Farquard speaking] "It's a place where I know my grandson is going to be nurtured. I know that any and all doors are open for him!"